FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 APRIL 1987

Aftermath of PNC Session

Egypt's Response to PNC — Egypt has decided to close down all PLO offices and institutions on its territory in response to the the PNC's "irresponsible position," Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid announced in a statement carried by MENA 27 April. While stressing that Egypt will continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt cannot remain silent over the "absurdity and falsehood" perpetrated by certain individuals who have "distorted" the image of the Palestinian people and have placed themselves at the disposal of "suspect forces" which have been "conspiring" against the Palestinian people and "stabbing them in the back." The PNC's "aggressive" resolution on relations with Egypt showed "ingratitude" for the latter's sacrifices on behalf of the Palestinians and the only justification for this "reckless" stand was that it was "the price demanded and paid to please certain countries," the minister asserted.

In a related report from Cairo, WAKH said the Egyptian authorities have closed offices of the PLO, the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Palestinian Women's Union, the Palestinian Writers' Union, and the Fatah Information Bureau. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to hold urgent contacts with the Egyptian authorities to limit the effects of their decision, the agency said.

The PLO is calling for an emergency Arab League Council meeting to discuss Egypt's move, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah announced in a statement cited by Algiers radio. Describing the Egyptian decision as a "dangerous step," Hawatimah said the PLO will not bow to pressures aimed at undermining Palestinian unity. A senior PFLP official likewise accused Egypt of seeking to destroy the PLO's unity, Radio Monte Carlo noted. A contrasting Palestinian reaction came from former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, who viewed Egypt's decision as a natural response to the "wretched" decisions of the PNC, according to Jerusalem radio.

PLO Headquarters — Arab sources cited by Beirut's *Al-Safir* stated that the PLO will shortly announce a decision to transfer its headquarters from Tunis to Algiers, KUNA reported.

Damascus Factions on PNC — A Radio Monte Carlo report on the views of Palestinian factions in Damascus cited critical comment on the PNC by the PFLP-GC and the Fatah Uprising, but noted that the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front welcomed the results of the PNC as "the first step on the road to comprehensive unity."

Israel

In remarks cited by Jerusalem radio 28 April, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres denied *'Al Hamishmar's* report that he held lengthy talks with Jordan's King Husayn last week. However, Peres reaffirmed his belief that Jordan is prepared to enter direct negotiations with an "international opening," and *Ha'aretz* likewise reported that Husayn has expressed willingness to take this step without the PLO. It was in light of Husayn's new position that President Reagan sent Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a message urging him not to miss the "historic opportunity" that has been created in the region, the paper disclosed. Interviewed by IDF radio during his current visit to France, Shamir acknowledged having received a message from Reagan and noted that the President believes the path of an international conference should be examined.

In another foreign policy development, *The Jerusalem Post* disclosed that Labor MK Rafi Edri is en route to Morocco on a diplomatic mission on behalf of Foreign Minister Peres.

Iran-Iraq War

IRNA announced that Iranian forces launched another phase of the "Karbala'-10" offensive the night of 27 April, capturing a "vast area" of Iraqi territory in the north and killing over 1,000 Iraqi soldiers. In contrast, an Iraqi military source cited by INA asserted that an attacking Iranian force was "wiped out" in an unsuccessful attempt to capture an Iraqi border peak. Iraq had earlier claimed that its antiaircraft defenses downed two Iranian helicopters in the northern sector, according to a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

Maghreb Affairs

Bendjedid Visit to Mauritania — In a press statement cited by Algiers radio, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid declared that during his 2-day visit to Nouakchott and the northern city of Nouadhibou, he expressed Algeria's support for efforts related to maintaining Mauritania's "security, stability, and unity." Bendjedid noted that he and Mauritanian President Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya discussed increasing bilateral cooperation in light of the two sides' "mutual trust."

Moroccan Casualties — According to Algiers radio, 137 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 100 wounded by Polisario soldiers who destroyed positions along the defense wall 25 April.

Moroccan-Soviet Consultations — Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of equipment and cadre training, heads the Moroccan delegation in Moscow for the eighth session of the intergovernmental committee to promote cooperation, Rabat radio reported.

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Groups React To Egyptian Closure of PLO Offices

Arab League Meeting Requested

LD272336 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The PLO is calling for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the Egyptian Government's decision to close all PLO offices in Cairo. This was announced by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, in a statement yesterday to the international press at the Les Oures Hotel in Algiers. Mr Hawatimah described the Egyptian decision as a dangerous step in the history of Egyptian-Palestinian relations. The Palestinian official indicated that a meeting between the Fatah Movement and the DFLP took place to discuss Egypt's move. The new Executive Committee is also expected to meet in the next 48 hours to discuss appropriate measures in light of Egypt's attitude.

Mr Hawatimah stated that we will clearly reveal the scale of the plot afoot to hurt Palestinian unity. We will not allow this new conspiracy to succeed, nor will we bow to pressure aimed at breaking our unity. [passage omitted]

PLO Unity Target of Closures

JN280637 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Because Egypt's decision [to close down PLO offices in Egypt] was announced at a late hour yesterday, there has been little reaction to it. The only parties that reacted immediately were the DFLP and the PFLP. DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said Egypt's decision is targeted against the Palestinians' restored unity and announced that the PLO Executive Committee will meet in the next 2 days to determine the PLO's stand toward Egypt.

For his part, Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PLO Executive Committee member and a senior PFLP official, accused Egypt of trying to destroy PLO unity. He noted that Egypt's decision reflects the adherence of President Mubarak's regime to the Camp David accords.

We will have to wait a while before we can discern the implications of Egypt's decision and the PNC resolutions, especially those related to the international conference. Washington believes the PNC resolutions are discouraging, while the EC expressed hope that the positive elements that appeared in the past few months regarding the possibility of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East will not be affected by the PNC's abrogation of the Amman accord.

'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Session

LD272010 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, which was unanimously elected at the PNC's 18th session in Algiers, has met in the Algerian capital under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

The committee discussed a number of important issues related to Palestinian and Arab affairs, including the situation of Palestinian students in Egypt. It also debated the question of Arab and international contacts called for by the 18th PNC session. The participants adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions on this matter.

The PLO Military Council also met under the chairmanship of Brother Abu 'Ammar. During its session, the Council reviewed conditions inside the occupied territories and the campaigns of terrorism and oppression launched against our people. It also examined the status of Palestinians inside the camps of southern Lebanon in light of the serious escalation of military activities against them by the Zionist enemy. This has been most clearly seen in the continuing barbaric air and naval raids on our families, and the ongoing seige imposed against our relatives' camps in Beirut. The council approved a number of resolutions concerning this matter.

'Arafat Holds News Conference on PNC Session

Views Palestinian Unity

LD271051 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 27 April (APS) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference yesterday afternoon at the Aures Hotel, which was attended by Arab and foreign journalists who came to Algeria to cover the meetings of the PNC. 'Arafat gave a precis of the most important issues covered by the PNC resolutions, and his view of the future of Palestinian-Arab relations and Palestinian ties with the world at large.

He affirmed the unity of the Palestinian groups which, he said, had achieved their goals through the PNC, which discussed all questions in a climate of deep responsibility and maturity. He noted that national unity, which is a clear and strong reflection of our people's unity within the occupied territories and the camps, has been attained.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] explained that through its political committee, the PNC concentrated on the international conference. This idea enjoys universal international support after being approved by the Harare nonaligned summit. It is clearly expressed in the resolutions of the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait, the resolutions of the recent Arab Foreign Ministers Council session in Tunis, and the EEC joint statement, which highlighted the international conference in accordance with the Venice declaration, which affirmed the right of Palestinians to self-determination, and the PLO's participation. Its backing was also established through the agreement reached last summer between French President Francois Mitterrand and CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev, who called for the formation of a preparatory committee, and through American affirmations, albeit from a special angle.

'Arafat pointed out that in light of this international trend, the PNC approved the idea of calling for a conference under UN supervision with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing. He said that international socialism could play a role here.

Asked about Palestinian-Egyptian relations, Abu 'Ammar replied: I will keep trying to maintain my good relations with Egypt. This is something I am proud of. Egypt has a cultural role that goes back thousands of years. In addition, its army has a role which can neither be forgotten nor ignored.

Abu 'Ammar explained that the PNC made a point of highlighting the importance of Egypt's role and its return to the Arabs, so it may take its place at the head of our Arab nation.

Abu 'Ammar answered a question on ties with Syria. He declared: You should realize that our differences with Syria are nothing more than disputes among brothers, regardless of how great or small they may be.

He added that the PNC decided a year ago in Baghdad to turn a new leaf and offer our hand to our brothers in Syria. This position was reaffirmed at the PNC session in Algeria.

Asked about his statement to the Italian press on holding negotiations with the Israelis in Geneva, 'Arafat noted that the Italian press asked him for his views on Weizman's proposal for the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation. I then asked them why Weizman does not accept the idea of a single democratic state with dual nationality.

'Arafat concluded his news conference by answering a number of queries from the international press, which demanded specific replies. These dealt with the PLO's relations with the Arabs and the world at large, and the translation of the political, organizational, and struggle-oriented resolutions passed by the PNC at its latest session.

Answers Weizman's Proposal

JN271043 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 27 Apr (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that the organization's relations with Egypt are good and that he will work to maintain them. He added: Egypt has a pioneering role. It has an ancient civilization, and no one can overlook the sacrifices of its great people and heroic army in all the Arab nation's battles on behalf of the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat was speaking at a news conference last night on the resolutions of the 18th PNC session, which concluded its work in Algiers the day before yesterday. He added that the PNC paid special attention to Egypt in its resolutions. It noted that Egypt must return, so it can assume its place in the Arab nation. It also cited its pioneering role.

As for the DFLP's statement during the session attacking Egyptian pressure on the PLO, 'Arafat explained: The PLO is a democratic forum in which everyone expresses his opinion on Arab and international issues. In this it is similar to Egypt, which enjoys democratic life, and where individuals as well as political parties express their views on domestic, Arab, and international matters. Their opinions may differ from those of the Egyptian Government itself.

'Arafat went on: As for us, as the organization's executive leadership, we abide by the PNC resolutions on this. [passage indistinct]

Regarding his assessment of the results of the PNC meetings, 'Arafat said all the factions that took part had their demand met. They had all insisted on unity in order to consolidate the Palestinian people's struggle inside and outside the occupied territories, and especially in Lebanon's camps.

'Arafat remarked: The PNC paid particular attention to the international conference, which has gained the interest and support of the entire world, so much so that even the Israeli Government is divided over the matter. Furthermore, the U.S. Administration has expressed its opinion on it for the first time. Therefore, the PNC has adopted the idea of calling for this conference on the condition that it be under UN supervision and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, with the PLO and the others parties concerned participating on an equal footing.

'Arafat added that the international conference is only one side of the PLO's diplomatic and political struggle. However, the Palestinian people will continue all forms of struggle to win their legitimate rights.

'Arafat said the PNC's success will expedite the Arab and make a positive contribution to strengthening Arab solidarity for the sake of the Palestinian cause, which is the very core of the Middle East crisis.

Turning to Weizman's recent statements and proposal on the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation, 'Arafat said: I submit a counterproposal — the formation of a single democratic state in which all nationalities would be equal. I challenge Weizman to accept that. And, should he do so, we will go to the United Nations to discuss the matter.

Replying to a question on his trip to the USSR, 'Arafat said he would warmly welcome the idea of visiting friends in the Soviet Union.

'Arafat declined to answer questions on future relations between the PLO and Jordan, Morocco, and Egypt. However, he said the organization wanted to maintain its strong ties to Jordan.

'Arafat launched a violent attack on Israel's aggressive policy and U.S. support for it. He condemned Israel's settlement program, its continuous attacks on holy places, the confiscation of lands and the closure of universities, as well as assaults on Arab citizens by Zionist settlers. 'Arafat declared: Despite this Israeli policy, which is backed by the United States, we do not fear our enemies. We know how to deal with them.

'Arafat touched on the abortive attempts by the United States and Israel to liquidate the PLO since 1982, saying: The United States must realize that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. It must also see that there can be no just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East without a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question.

'Arafat Details 'Binational' State Proposal

PM271550 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 26-27 Apr 87 p 13

[Magdi Allam dispatch: "'Arafat Proposes Coexistence Within a Single State to Israel"]

[Excerpts] Algiers — "A binational democratic state" formed by Israel and the Palestinian state: This is the counterproposal that PLO leader 'Arafat has made to Israeli Minister 'Ezer Weizman to achieve a "just and honorable" solution for the Palestinian cause.

Speaking to a group of Italian journalists, 'Arafat stressed that his proposal is different from the idea of a single, nonconfessional state envisaged by the PLO Charter. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] Following to the PNC session, are you optimistic about the convening of an international Middle East peace conference?

['Arafat] First, there is the initiative launched by Comrade Gorbachev and President Mitterrand for a preparatory meeting for the international conference, there are official statements of support from China, the EEC, the Harare nonaligned summit, the Islamic summit in Kuwait, and the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. There is also a General Assembly resolution. Now, for the first time, we have acceptance in principle from the United States. In addition, there is a split within the Israeli Government over the international conference, also a first. The problem stems from U.S. and Israeli opposition to Palestinian participation, but the conference is gaining massive international support. We cannot be treated as negligible, even if we are the difficult factor in the Middle East equation.

[Journalist] Following this PNC session will the PLO's new military strategy be confined to the occupied territories or could it spread abroad?

['Arafat] Since the Cairo Declaration (of 1985 in which the PLO pledged not to stage terrorist or military actions outside the occupied territories) the Israelis have conducted military actions against us outside the occupied territories. Two of our hydroplanes were sunk in the port of Messina, where they were docked for repairs. That was a violation of Italian sovereignty. Two of our leaders, Colonels Khalid Nazzan [as published] and Munzir Abu Ghazalah were murdered in Athens; a civilian ship belonging to us was blown up in Greece; 11 vessels carrying medical supplies, food, and materials for us were hijacked in international waters; and fellow countrymen of ours — unarmed civilians — were arrested and taken off a ship bringing them from Lebanon to Cyprus. It is a long list and it has all happened since and despite the Cairo declaration. I tell you now that there is a limit to our patience; we cannot just stand idly by. Every match takes place between two players, and our arms are long. Shamir and Rabin must realize this. Theirs is an official, organized form of terrorism.

[Journalist] Israeli Minister Weizman has said he is willing to meet with you right away if you recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338. He has also proposed a confederation between a Palestinian state and Israel. What do you think of that?

['Arafat] I offer him an alternative. Does he agree to coexistence in a single state with two communities — a binational democratic state? This is the challenge I present to him.

[Journalist] Is this the proposal embodied in the PLO Charter?

['Arafat] No, this is something different: My proposal follows Canada's example. I am willing to meet with him in Geneva under UN auspices. We are amenable to a special UN session to examine this honorable and worthy proposal. In the long term there is no other option.

If Peres or Abba Eban had proposed a confederation 10 years ago, no one would have accepted it. Now I am putting forward something more advanced. This is the trend of history: They cannot survive forever in the Middle East as an American satellite. In the long run they must find a solution. Mendes France and Nahum Goldman realized this. Before he died Goldman wrote me a letter arguing that such a settlement is inevitable. Why do they not remember this?

Palestinian Factions React to PNC Resolutions

JN271910 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Algiers PNC session, an official spokesman for the PFLP-GC has said the conferees violated the basic statutes of the PLO. Despite the clamor raised over the relationship with Egypt, the resolution issued on this by the PNC violates the provisions of the Tripoli document and has left the door open for Egypt to define its ties to the PLO.

The spokesman added: This is in addition to the fact that the configuration of the PLO Executive Committee gives Yasir 'Arafat the chance to make unilateral decisions. The spokesman said: The conferees in Algiers also failed to recognize the opportunity which the Syrian initiative provides for Palestinian action. They chose instead to continue antagonizing Damascus. What we saw in Algiers was not national unity but a factional alliance.

The spokesman added the PFLP-GC will work to safeguard the PNSF as a body that will struggle on national bases.

'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash, spokesman for the Fatah Uprising Movement, has said the Algiers PNC session resolutions do not differ in content from those of the Amman meeting. He said the two PNC sessions have confirmed Yasir 'Arafat's political course.

On relations between the PLO and Egypt, Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] notes that the PNC session resolution was no more than a piece of theatrics designed as a face-saving measure for those organizations that joined 'Arafat. Abu Musa stressed that the basic problem in the crisis of national action does not consist in tackling the consequences entailed by 'Arafat's course but the political course itself which, if it continues to exist, will lead to a further deterioration of the prevailing state of affairs. He added that the Fatah Uprising Movement will work to develop the PNSF to make it a political and military command for the Palestinian people, which will attempt to free the revolution from its dilemma.

Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, spokesman for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has explained that the results attained in Algiers were the first step on the road to comprehensive unity. He added: We had hoped the resolutions would be clearer and more specific as far as positions are concerned. We will continue to hold a dialogue with all parties concerned and with all factions to reach a clear formula for comprehensive unity. He explained that the PPSF will keep on working to put relations between the PLO and Syria on solid bases.

KUWAIT

Jordanian Financial Delegation Ends Visit

LD271348 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, April 27 (KUNA) — Jordan's Commerce and Industry Minister Raja'i al-Mu'ahsir, Finance Minister Dr. Hanna 'Awdah and accompanying delegation today left here.

The Jordanian officials during their visit, attended the two-day seminar on investment in Jordan which opened here on Saturday.

Last night, the delegation met here with members of the Jordanian community in Kuwait to acquaint them with the purposes and outcome of the Kuwait visit and to appraise investment opportunities in Jordan.

Speaking, Commerce and Industry Minister Dr. Raja'i al-Mu'ahsir stated that the Jordanian delegation's visit was at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Government and indicated that following talks with Kuwaiti investment institutions agreement has been reached to set up a joint committee to follow up financing and implementation of viable schemes in Jordan.

Apart from explaining the climate for investment in Jordan, the official said the delegation also offered to the Kuwaiti side a number of projects in the industrial, trade, agricultural, financial and tourist sectors.

He pointed out that Jordan is experiencing shortage in the production of cereals, meat and milk, adding that a number of projects offered are meant to ensure self-sufficiency in that field.

Delegation member and Finance Minister Dr. Hanna 'Awdah also spoke underlining the visit's aim of bolstering investment cooperation between Kuwait and Jordan besides opening the way before individual Kuwaiti investors.

He urged Jordanian expatriates to invest their home remittances in productive schemes, pointing out to the numerous incentives and facilities offered by the Amman government in this respect, and expressed continuous readiness to offer advice to interested individuals.

PDRY

Industry Minister Returns From USSR; Accords Noted

EA271616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, minister of industry, trade, and supply, returned to Aden yesterday from Moscow after a visit lasting several days. The trip included the signing of a commercial cooperation protocol between the two friendly countries for 1987. They also signed an accord on the exchange of certain commodities between our country and the Soviet Union for the years 1987 to 1990. The Soviet Union will export some equipment, tools, spare parts, and industrial raw materials to our country, while the Yemeni side will ship rubber sandals, oils, and manufactured goods.

The Soviet first deputy foreign trade minister signed the agreements for his country.

UAE

Iranian Officials Leave Dubayy After 3-Day Visit

JN271331 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Apr (WAKH) — Iranian Deputy Communications Minister Lutfallah Atbaki [name and title as received] and Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Political Department, left Dubayy this evening after a 3-day visit to the UAE. During their stay, the Iranian officials handed His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on current regional developments and bilateral relations.

Minister of State 'Abdallah Visits PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, to the People's Republic of China, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 24 April China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

YAR

Foreign Minister Leaves for Talks in Bonn

JN271808 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, left for Bonn today at the head of a delegation. The group will open a cultural exhibition covering 3,000 years of Yemeni history. The exhibit is sponsored by the FRG Government, and will run in Munich from 28 April to late December of this year. Dr al-Iryani told SABA' his stay in the FRG would include talks with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The delegation includes Husayn al-'Amri, minister of agriculture and fisheries, the head of the general corporation of archaeology and libraries, the deputy chief of the presidential office, the head of the executive bureau for the preservation of old Sanaa; the deputy head of the general corporation of archaeology and libraries, and Foreign Ministry officials.

Government Closes PLO Offices, Makes Statement

NC271550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1529 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) — The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to close down all PLO offices and all the institutions belonging to the PLO in Egypt.

The PLO office in Cairo was informed of this decision before it was closed down.

The decision was declared by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in an announcement he made this evening in front of representatives of the international press.

The statement emphasizes that this decision does not signify any change in Egyptian support for the Palestinian people's struggle. After all, this position of support proceeds from a principled and unshakable commitment that springs from the Egyptian people's faith in the justice of the cause of the Palestinians who are undergoing an ordeal, the likes of which no other people have suffered in modern history.

The following is the text of Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's statement outlining Egypt's stand on the decisions of the 18th session of the PNC recently held in Algiers:

Egypt has been playing the major role on various Arab and international levels in support of the just and legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people, to protect Palestinians against aggression by any forces of conspiracy and hegemony, and to convince influential international powers that the PLO must be given the chance to play its part in the peace process and must participate in an international peace conference. Egypt's objective has been to end Israel's occupation of Arab land and guarantee the Palestinian people's firm right to determine their own future on their own land.

Hopeful signs of obtaining the agreement of the parties concerned to an international conference with an effective and active Palestinian participation were beginning to appear on the horizon.

The PNC has chosen this very time to issue a resolution that addresses relations between the PLO and Egypt in an aggressive manner, showing ingratitude for the sacrifices made by Egypt to support the Palestinian people in their struggle. The only justification for such a reckless resolution, which was adopted in a way that completely contradicts the facts, was that it was the price demanded and paid to please certain countries.

It is indeed strange that the PNC should permit itself to show such a measure of ingratitude for the struggle waged by Egypt, the country that undertook to perform the role that the leaders of the PLO were either incapable of carrying out or else abandoned. Egypt performed this role as if it were more an Egyptian responsibility than a Palestinian one. At the same time, the PNC closed its eyes and ears to the forces that attempted to humiliate the Palestinian people, destroy their dignity, and confiscate their liberty, even to the extent of carrying out acts of physical liquidation and mass slaughter against them.

Egypt cannot remain silent vis-a-vis the absurdity and falsehood being perpetrated by individuals who are farthest removed from any commitment to a national or pan-Arab cause [wataniyah aw qawmiyah], who have done a very grave injury to the Palestinian people's struggle, who have distorted these people's image, and who have placed themselves at the disposal of suspect forces. These forces have gone very far in conspiring against the Palestinian people and stabbing them in the back at the same time that the Palestinian people were encountering the gravest challenges.

Furthermore, Egypt had warned the PLO leaders both before and during the convening of the PNC of the consequences of insulting Egypt and the sacrifices it has made, as well as showing ingratitude for its advice and the positions it has adopted in directing its efforts toward serving the Palestinian cause and giving expression to the hopes, demands, and concerns of the Palestinian people.

In view of this, Egypt had to put an end to this triviality and to confront this irresponsible position with the firmness the supreme national interest demands, to safeguard Egypt's dignity, and to be faithful to the memory of its martyrs and its march of struggle. Therefore, the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided the following:

To close down all the PLO offices and institutions in the Arab Republic of Egypt and (?to take) the measures necessitated by this action.

This decision was conveyed to the PLO office before its closure.

It goes without saying that this does not mean any change in Egypt's position of support for the Palestinian people's struggle. Such a position is a principled and unshakable commitment that stems from Egypt's belief in the justness of the Palestinian people's cause. The Palestinian people have suffered an ordeal unlike any other in modern history. Leaders who do not know the meaning of commitment to the cause were imposed on the Palestinians, and the sole concern of these leaders was to win gains through plots and maneuvering. The firm stand taken by Egypt is the one that actually safeguards the right of the valiant Palestinian people to rid themselves of the occupation and to liberate their land and will.

PLO To Lose Privileges

JN280913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (WAKH) — It was learned in Cairo this morning that the Egyptian authorities intend to cancel the Cairo agreement that grants PLO cadres in Egypt special privileges, including diplomatic passports and priority in receiving services.

Informed sources told a WAKH correspondent in Cairo that the Egyptian authorities do not currently plan to take intensive measures against Palestinians living in Egypt. The sources added that the steps to be taken will be limited to restrictions on their activities, with bans on those related to organized Palestinian action. These sources went on to say that the expulsion of senior Palestinian officials from Egypt is out of the question right now.

It has also been learned from Palestinian sources in Cairo that Yasir 'Arafat is expected to hold urgent contacts with the Egyptian authorities to contain the effects of the decision announced yesterday by 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, concerning the resolutions of the 18th PNC session in Algiers.

Prior to the announcement of the Egyptian decision, the Egyptian security forces acted yesterday evening, and closed and sealed off the offices of the PLO, the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Palestinian Women's Union, the Palestinian Writers' Union, and the Fatah Information Bureau. Special guards were placed around these facilities.

Palestinians in Egypt are concerned about the situation. The PNC had earlier entrusted the PLO Executive Committee with the task of determining the PLO's relations with Egypt on the basis of the resolutions adopted at previous PNC sessions, especially the 16th. The 16th PNC session called for enhancing the PLO's relations with [Egyptian] democratic forces, the opposition.

Dailies Endorse Decision

NC270716 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) — Egypt's decision to close all PLO offices and institutions in its territory is headlined by Cairo dailies in their editions for Tuesday, 28 April. The papers address the move in their editorials.

These papers commend the decision, which was made in response to resolutions adopted by the PNC, showing complete hostility toward Egypt and ingratitude for the sacrifices it has made for the Palestinian people. The papers emphasize, however, that the Egyptian decision does not signify a change in Egypt's policy of supporting the Palestinian people's struggle, as that support stems from an unshakable, principled commitment and emanates from Egypt's belief in the just cause of these people.

In its editorial, *Al-Ahram* writes: The greatest and strongest of ties with Egypt, with all its power, sacrifices, and resources dedicated to the cause, are cast aside without a second thought, replaced by a vague formula that does not change reality. All this is done for the sake of hypothetical unity among conflicting factions — unity that will always be doubtful.

The paper asserts that this decision is nothing more than an infamous Syrian maneuver that fooled naive leaders thought to be wiser and more capable. This maneuver offers the least to get the most: All the PLO's assets and all the cards in its hand. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahram expresses surprise that the Fatah organization, which holds a majority of seats in the PLO leadership, has made far greater concessions than the pro-Syrian faction, which made only one. [passage omitted]

The paper concludes by saying that the greatest maneuver still awaits 'Arafat; his new allies will turn their backs on him completely after he has lost all he had gained.

Al-Akhbar expresses concern about the concessions being made by 'Arafat to please the Syrian regime, noting his sacrifice of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord to please Hafiz al-Asad.

The paper adds that despite the fact that the Iraqi regime is a powerful ally of the 'Arafat wing, 'Arafat sacrificed this alliance in the concessions he made to the Syrian regime in an attempt to keep the PLO under his control and to maintain his access to Arab oil money.

The paper describes the Egyptian Government as generous and tolerant, and has having risen above all the vices of the Palestinian leadership. It adds that the Egyptian regime would not kill Palestinians in retribution for its humiliation at the hands of the Syrian and Libyan regimes during the PNC meetings.

The paper contends that Syria will not stop until it has toppled Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership and placed the organization under the control of the second Syrian bureau, Syrian intelligence.

In conclusion, the paper condemns the compromises made by 'Arafat, describing them as a great blow to the Palestinian cause. According to the paper, these concessions will ultimately lead to the loss of the entire Palestinian cause.

Palestinians Condemn PNC

NC280541 Cairo MENA in English 2300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 27 (MENA) — The Palestinian people's circles in Egypt underlined tonight that the PLO's abuse of Egypt through the recent Palestine National Council (PNC)'s resolutions is not accepted by the Palestinian people who strongly condemn it.

In a statement issued in Cairo today by the Palestinian National Salvation Movement, Khaili al-Yusuf, spokesman for the movement, said that the Palestinian people are of the opinion that President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian leadership have done their utmost to solve the Palestinian issue.

The statement pointed out that the Palestinian people cannot forget the Egyptian people's sacrifices for the Palestinian issue.

Ghali, Soviet Official Discuss Security Issues

NC271717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Valentin Luzenskiy, chief of the International Organizations Department at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [name and title as received]

During the meeting, they discussed questions of international security, as well as ways of making concerted international efforts and coordinating positions at the United Nations to deal with these urgent issues. This will apply to security in all parts of the world, with emphasis on the Middle East, Africa, Indian Ocean, and Red Sea.

Abu Ghazalah Denies Report on Base for U.S.

NC261715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has said that the Egyptian Armed Forces are doing well and are in the best shape ever. He reiterated that they are Egypt's shield and will remain so. In addition, he pointed out that there is a well-studied scientific plan to continuously develop and modernize the military.

In a statement on the occasion marking the 5th anniversary of the Sinai liberation, Abu Ghazalah said: We will never forget our untainted martyrs who performed their duty for the homeland. We hope to gain the same honor of martyrdom for the sake of Egypt. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question about the delay in the delivery of the French-built Mirage-2000 aircraft to Egypt, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stated that, although the delivery of the last six of these planes has been delayed, the problem is being resolved and the program for the delivery of these aircraft will go ahead as planned.

The deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production denied a report about an Egyptian-U.S. agreement to grant the United States the Ra's Banas Base. He maintained that none of the Egyptian officials has ever even raised this subject with the United States.

Abu Ghazalah declared that the U.S. surface-to-air Chaparral missiles will be integrated into the Egyptian Armed Forces by the end of the current year, noting that Egyptian crews have already been trained in their use. [passage omitted]

On the current visit to Cairo by Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said it is purely an ordinary visit and not of a political nature. He explained that there is a committee to assess the Egyptian armament program. The committee convenes twice a year, rotating between the United States and Egypt, to study the program, look into Egypt's needs, and eliminate any problems that might emerge. He affirmed that the committee has been making regular visits over the past 3 years.

Continuing, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah asserted that Egypt is forging ahead with its plans for the first Egyptian-built tank. He added: We have obtained a permit to manufacture the U.S. M-1 tank and the ongoing talks center on what should be manufactured in the initial stages. The factory is now being constructed and deals have already been concluded for the supply of various types of equipment.

To a question about Egypt giving military hardware to Sudan, he said that an Egyptian committee has visited Sudan in accordance with an already-established program and the joint defense pact between the two countries. He pointed out that it is on a continuing basis that the joint committees convene on specific dates to discuss various matters and training operations.

U.S. Sets Terms for Considering Aid Resumption

PM221523 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar Report: "Three U.S. Conditions To Consider Resumption of Financial Aid"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned from informed sources that the U.S. Administration told Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid at his talks in Washington last week of its agreement in principle to reconsider Congress' decision on the suspension of financial aid to Egypt and reduce interest rates on Egypt's military debts from 14 to 7 percent. This will take place if the Egyptian Government agrees to three U.S. conditions: first, persuading King Husayn of Jordan to enter into direct peace negotiations with Israel regarding the West Bank, to be held in Cairo under Egyptian supervision and away from an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Second, allowing U.S. forces to carry out military maneuvers in the western desert early next fall. Third, taking a more positive step toward normalizing relations with Israel in all fields.

In a report he recently sent to Washington, Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, warned of rising waves of popular anger against U.S. interests in Egypt and strong criticism of U.S. policy in the Egyptian media, especially after American pressure designed to besiege Egypt economically.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Continues Visit

Received by Sidqi

NC221714 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met today with Israeli Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin. The Israeli minister arrived in Cairo yesterday for a week-long visit, in response to an invitation from Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

Meets With Mubarak

NC221925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin this evening. Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and Moshe Sason, Israeli ambassador in Cairo, were also present.

Received by Ghali

NC231930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met tonight with Israeli Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin. During the meeting Dr Ghali stressed that Egyptian-Israeli relations and their normalization are closely linked to the Palestinian problem and the urgent need for a comprehensive Middle East settlement guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Ends Visit 26 Apr

NC262128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA) — Israeli Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin left Cairo tonight at the end of a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Israeli minister held talks with Egyptian Government officials on the promotion of agriculture and the introduction of modern technology in the field.

Zambian State Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC260959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA) — Mrs Mavis Muyanda, Zambian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo today on a 4-day official visit. During her stay in Egypt, Muyanda will hold talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

Official Talks Held

NC261608 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA) — Official talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon between an Egyptian delegation chaired by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a Zambian delegation led by Mrs Mavis Muyanda, his Zambian counterpart, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Discussions centered on the deteriorating situation in southern Africa in light of the flagrant aggression against Zambia, which was carried out by the forces of the racist, fascist Pretoria regime.

Dr Ghali stressed the profound and solid ties between Egypt and Zambia, affirming Egypt's support for the struggle being waged by the African Frontline States to destroy the apartheid regime in South Africa. [passage omitted]

USSR Minister Petrovskiy Concludes 4-Day Visit

Holds News Conference

JN271935 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy has asserted that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, as well as his talks and consultations with senior Iraqi officials, were special and took place in a climate of friendship and mutual understanding.

At a news conference here this evening attended by correspondents from local, Arab, and international news agencies, radio and television stations, and newspapers, Petrovskiy said there was an expanded exchange of views on urgent issues and the Middle East situation, with emphasis on the Iraq-Iran war. He stressed the USSR's principled stand, which is designed to end the conflict quickly, emphasizing that it must be settled through political dialogue at a negotiating table and not on the battlefield.

Petrovskiy pointed out that the USSR expressed its readiness to support all efforts to stop the conflict by peaceful means. He indicated that the available capabilities of the United Nations and its Security Council must be used to halt the conflict through negotiations. Petrovskiy voiced his hope that the proposal by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to hold a UN Security Council session at the foreign ministers level to discuss the Iraq-Iran war would result in a binding resolution and contribute to the conflict's resolution.

The USSR deputy foreign minister said his country stands against those who threaten the security and freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf. Petrovskiy recalled USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals on turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. He said that among the proposals is the USSR's readiness to participate in talks involving all countries that use the Indian Ocean. Such a gathering would draft a formula for security guarantees in the Indian Ocean, the Arab Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz. He said events in the region are heading toward a peaceful settlement, not a military one, and that today's developments require swift and practical measures to stop the war. This will have a positive effect on the Arab Gulf situation in general, he said, adding that the USSR is directing all its efforts toward ending the Iraq-Iran war by peaceful means.

Petrovskiy pointed out the USSR always calls for stronger relations with Arab Gulf states. He expressed satisfaction with the existing ties between his country and Kuwait, the UAE, and Oman.

The USSR deputy foreign minister touched on the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East. He described the Palestinian question as the core of the Middle East crisis and that any conference must include all the parties concerned, including the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Departs 28 Apr

JN280937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA) — USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy left Baghdad today following an official 4-day visit to Iraq. The Soviet official held talks with the Iraqi authorities on ways to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Leaves for Moscow

JN280935 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Moscow today on a visit to the USSR scheduled to last several days. This trip is part of a tour of the permanent member-states of the UN Security Council by the Arab 7-member committee charged with ending the Iraq-Iran war.

It should be noted that in addition to Iraq, the committee includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and the PLO.

Oil Minister Al-Jalabi Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN271504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1418 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi met with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah this morning. The session was devoted to a review of bilateral cooperation in oil matters. Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-Sabah arrived in Baghdad late last night to attend the opening ceremony of the Arab Oil Institute.

Military Reports Combat in Various Sectors

Communique No 2,656

JN271645 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,656 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 April 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The following is a roundup of our units' activities for yesterday and today:

1. At 0215 today an enemy force tried to approach one of our border vantage points in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our courageous fighters immediately confronted it with all types of weapons and annihilated most of the attacking force. The rest fled, pursued by our artillery fire. The situation was settled in favor of our triumphant forces. In the same sector, 27 vehicles carrying personnel, equipment, and hardware were destroyed. A shovel [preceding word in English] and a bulldozer were also demolished.

2. Our heroic Air Force continued to tear apart the aggressive Khomeyniites, destroying many of their positions, weapons, and equipment in 45 combat missions. Our planes returned safely to

base, praise be to God.

3. The knights of our helicopter gunships play a heroic role in confronting the regime of the Zionist charlatans. Today they carried out 66 sorties, inflicting fresh losses on the scoundrels. They returned safely to base in God's care.

4. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector used all types of arms in their attack on enemy positions, vehicles, and weapons. They dealt additional losses to the enemy's rear lines. Ten infantry positions were also demolished, a vehicle was set alight, and an ammunition dump was destroyed.

5. Our heroic formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt several effective blows with artillery and tanks to enemy positions opposite them. They obstructed enemy engineering work, inflicted further losses on enemy units, and destroyed a single-barreled machine gun and a number of infantry post. They also set fire to other positions.

6. To rid themselves of the tyranny of the charlatans' regime in Iran, a number of Iranian civilians fled to our forward units on the battlefield. They were transferred safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 April 1987

2 Iranian Helicopters Downed

JN271906 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1855 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 27 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1525 today, two enemy helicopters, one a Cobra and the other of the Bell type, tried to violate our airspace in the heroic I Army Corps northern sector. Our gallant ground defenses immediately intercepted them and downed them inside our territory. Blessed be the courageous men of our ground defense forces in the brave I Army Corps sector. We thank God for granting us victory on this blessed day. God is the best supporter.

VI Army Corps in 'Control'

JN271315 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — A senior Iraqi military commander has said the Iraqi forces in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris have the initiative and control the sector's passages as well as the no-man's-land through almost daily military attacks.

In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* today, Staff Major General Sultan Hashim, VI Army Corps commander, added that the formations and units in this sector are ready to clash with and crush the Iranian forces anywhere, anytime. He said the morale of the Iraqi fighters is very high, and that they monitor all moves by the Iranian forces. This is one result of their willingness to continue fighting with great vigor until the Iranian aggression is finally ended. He emphasized that the war has been decided in Iraq's favor. He also said the abilities of the Iraqi Armed Forces are increasing each day following the destruction of the best Iranian units, which are now in their most critical situation.

Iranians 'Wiped Out' in North

JN280837 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA) — The Iraqi Forces have wiped out an Iranian force the size of an infantry regiment which attempted to approach one of the border mountain peaks in the I Army Corps northern sector.

In a statement to INA today, a military source said the Iranian unit, which was almost entirely destroyed and whose survivors fled across the Iranian border, attempted to approach one of the border peaks at 2100 yesterday. The source added that the Iraqi forces in the same sector destroyed 39 vehicles loaded with personnel and ammunition, 4 shovels [preceding word in English], 3 machine guns, a 106-mm gun, several ammunition dumps, and a number of infantry positions.

Press Reviews Results, Resolutions of PNC

AL-DUSTUR on Restoring Unity

JN271154 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
27 Apr 87 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The PNC Statement and Reaffirmation of Principles"]

[Text] The PNC concluded its 18th session in Algiers yesterday. This followed tough bargaining and discussions that finally ended the stage of bitter internal division and brought unity back to the Palestinian movement.

Although some ideologcal considerations took precedence over political ones in the PNC's general work, it has reaffirmed a number of principles governing Palestinian-Arab relations in a positive and progressive way.

The PNC reiterated the special and distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and called for an international conference in accordance with the Arab idea. The PNC condemned Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and hailed Egypt's role and the sacrifices of its great people. The PNC also asserted the importance of its ties with Syria and supported the Lebanese people's struggle against Israeli occuaption.

In view of all this, one can say the PNC session was a turning point in Palestinian action, which in recent years has suffered deeply from weakness and recession due to internal divisions and the confusion of political options.

Settling Palestinian differences can also be considered a step toward that cherished goal of Arab solidarity, especially since these disputes and other factors have helped weaken collective Arab action and greatly reduce the effectiveness of official Arab policy.

It is now hoped that this political success, which is embodied in the PNC statements and resolutions, will be reflected on the general Palestinian situation and the PLO's relations with the various Arab states. The PLO could be a unifying factor on the Arab scene instead of a party to endless differences and conflicts.

Analyzes Resolutions

JN280832 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Apr 87 pp 1, 19

[Unattributed news analysis: "After the PNC"]

[Text] The Algiers PNC session is over and one may now assess the profits and losses by supposing there were reasons for the desire to maintain PLO unity at any cost. The PLO leadership, now free of the pressure of the occasion, should face the situation responsibily to keep losses to a minimum.

Opinions were voiced in the occupied territory that cannot be dismissed not only because of their weight but, more importantly, because of their practical experience, given their daily exposure to the occupation forces' actions against land and people. These voices cannot be ignored or countered by superficial, outdated accusations.

Various opinions that represent national political trends in the occupied Arab territory virtually converge on one point: the resolutions that provoked Egypt and pushed it toward the path of estrangement were neither right nor necessary. They were in response to well-known Arab differences and not to the principles of the cause or the conditions of those languishing under occupation. It may be argued that the resolutions could not be avoided in view of the climate at the Algiers meetings. However, what must be done now is contain the crisis, prevent its aggravation, and find formulas and alternatives that will keep open the bridges of cooperation. It makes no sense to set aside the international influence of Egypt, which has borders with Palestine, to placate certain trends that are not as important. The Palestinian people need all the Arab support they can get.

On the other hand, we hoped the Egyptian Government would not respond in kind to the provocation, as it is the stronger of the two and is more capable of absorbing the shock. This would not only have served the Palestinian cause but the interests of Egypt and the Arabs as well. The current Arab situation compels the Arabs to facilitate Egypt's return to their ranks. It could then assume its responsibility for fighting new threats in the region in addition to the Israeli one, as the plots seek to drive Egypt from the Arab circle, something which, regrettably, is about to occur unless the change called for by Palestinian voices is attained.

In evaluating the Algiers PNC session, one must note the clear affirmation of the deep relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people. This stands out among all the resolutions and recommendations. In view of its experience and eagerness to serve the Palestinian cause, Jordan has spared the Palestinian people any negative reaction and has read some of the PNC resolutions with its customary calmness. As such, Palestinian-Jordanian relations need more than just good words, as have appeared in the PNC statement. Palestinian leaders must accept tangible facts through its acts and conduct.

The unity of Palestinian factions is undoubtedly an important achievement. Unless this unity restores the Palestinian cause to its sacred place on the Arab agenda, making it again the center on which the Arabs meet and transform it into a strength to support the people's steadfastness under occupation, its glow will wane over time, leaving only the losses we suffered to achieve it.

JORDAN TIMES on Session

JN271242 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Every Thing Goes!"]

[Text] There is an all-too-familiar sound to the resolutions that have been adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in its 18th session in Algiers over the past week. It is the sound that was heard from the PLO following its forced departure from Beirut and South Lebanon in 1982, and it is the same sound that would most probably continue to be heard as long as the political landscape in the Middle East remains essentially unchanged.

The resolutions of the 18th PNC can be described — or understood — as a reaffirmation of those adopted by the 16th session that was held in Algiers in 1982, only months after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in that year.

To the PLO, the resolutions mean that the fighting Palestinians will not accept defeat. To the watchful rest, the resolutions imply an insignificant shift from the political situation that prevailed five years ago.

The intervening period is, of course, of great historical importance, but not in terms of political realities. The political landscape of the Middle East today is not essentially different from that of 1982, despite all the changes in outlooks and circumstances and players that existed then. And it is because the Palestinians, more than anybody else, who are the first to realise this that we have turned a full cycle to go back to where we were years ago. [sentence as published]

This is talk in general terms. Talk in specifics is always a good material for history books, but not for our practical purposes. What is important here is to realise that it took the area, and particularly the Palestinians, five years and two PNCS to arrest history in order to go back to an old starting point.

Whose fault the arrest of history for so long is — remains to be seen. The more crucial issue, however, is whether the whole experience is worthwhile. Those of us who fully support the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate and inalienable rights cannot tell them what is right for them. We should limit ourselves to say what we think is going wrong.

But until such time when the Arabs as a nation and people know what is right and wrong in their politics, we remain of the opinion that the course of history is not going in our favour yet. When we know, our problems will be easier to solve; but until then, every thing goes — just about every thing.

Syrians Ordered To 'Confront' Israeli Attacks

JN280848 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (QNA) — Press reports here today said the Syrian forces in Lebanon have received clear orders from their leaders to confront any Israeli aggression.

In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Ittihad* published here today, a Lebanese political source said information indicates that Israeli commando units might launch limited attacks on the outskirts of Beirut's southern suburb against Hizballah and Amal positions on the heels of the recent escalation of the resistance operations. The source noted that the Syrians have deployed antiaircraft guns on the hills overlooking the airport, which is located in Beirut's southern suburb and also at the Khaldah triangle on the Coastal Road, which links Beirut with southern Lebanon and the mountain.

To Split Shi'ites, Druze

NC271750 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] AFP cites a Syrian military source as saying that one of the Syrian occupation units, led by 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observers, made an exploratory tour of the southeastern approach to Beirut in the past 24 hours. He sought to establish a Syrian observation post there which will divide the southern suburb and the Druze areas.

The Syrian source pointed out that this measure comes in the wake of repeated clashes between members of the Amal Movement and the socialists.

Fatah Personnel Among Beirut Bombing Suspects

NC272030 Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 27 (AFP) — The Syrian intelligence service arrested several people last week in connection with a wave of bomb attacks in Moslem West Beirut, a Syrian security source said here Monday.

He said some of them were "Fatah mercenaries" — the mainstream group of Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The others planted the bombs on behalf of Iraq and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia, he said.

The source said the suspected terrorists admitted to having received 5,000 to 15,000 Lebanese pounds (43 to 132 dollars). The payoffs were made according to the strength of the blasts, he said.

He did not say what punishment would be given these people, nor did he specify the number of those arrested.

A total of 75 bombs have exploded in the region since Syrian troops entered West Beirut on February 22 to put an end to factional fighting. Ten people have been wounded in the attacks, mostly small bombs concealed under heaps of garbage or cars. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Spark Fighting in Mountain

NC280720 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] According to reports received this morning, the Lebanese Forces have escalated tension on the mountain combat lines. Fierce clashes occurred on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat, Kafr Shima-Al-Shuwayfat, and Baabа-Al-Ma'rufiyah lines. Artillery in Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry area] shelled peaceful villages on the mountain, concentrating on Shamlan, 'Ayn 'Unub, and 'Aynat. Artillery fire could be clearly heard in some sections of the capital and the southern suburb.

UNIFIL Spokesman Denies Secret Israeli Contacts

NC271251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has denied press reports about secret contacts between UNIFIL and the Israeli authorities, saying: It is stupid to believe that Israel gives its secrets away to anyone. On the possibility of a new Israeli military action in the south, Goksel noted: It is impossible to predict what might happen. We see nothing unusual on the horizon.

Israelis Conduct Maneuvers

NC271421 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli occupation forces and their agents carried out military maneuvers near 'Alman today as Israeli gunboats patrolled off Sidon and Al-Rumaylah. Israeli warplanes flew over the south, the capital, and the mountain, breaking the sound barrier twice, first at 1315 and again at 1355. Their flights are continuing.

Israeli Position Attacked

NC280809 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] In retaliation for oppressive Zionist actions in the occupied south, the Martyr Hammud al-Raja group of the Al-Gharbi Forces fired eight 107-mm Grad rockets and a Katyusha from inside the security belt at a Zionist enemy post on the Ibil al-Saqy plain in the eastern sector. The missiles hit their target, killing or wounding a number of soldiers. Zionist helicopters were seen transporting the casualties back to occupied Palestine. Other helicopters fired flares in search of those who shot the rockets, but these fighters returned safely to base.

Reportage on President al-Asad's Visit to Moscow

For reportage on the arrival in Moscow of President Hafiz al-Asad and his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as meetings between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar‘, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 27 April Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Al-Ahmar Meets Afghan Party Delegation

JN271703 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — Comrade ‘Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba‘th Party, has received a delegation from the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], led by Najm al- Din Kaywani, the party secretary general [title as received], along with the Afghan ambassador in Damascus. They discussed cooperation between the two parties and countries to further shared goals and interests and promote the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

The head of the visiting delegation said he appreciated Syria's courageous stand against Israeli aggression and the plans of imperialist hegemony under struggler comrade President Hafiz al-Asad.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed Syria's support for the fight of the friendly Afghan people in defense of their homeland against counterrevolutionary forces.

A new agreement on collaboration between the Ba‘th Party and the PDPA for 1987-88 was signed at the headquarters of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba‘th Party.

Information Minister Meets Libyan Counterpart

JN261536 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh met in his office this morning with Dr Rajab Abu Dabbus, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture in sisterly Libya. Assistant Information Minister Adib Ghanam and the Libyan People's Bureau charge d'affaires were also present.

The two sides reviewed their strong bilateral relations of cooperation in the field of information and culture and ways to bolster them. They also discussed the possibility of increasing the two countries' exchange of various mass media programs with a view to broadening the collective unionist pan-Arab struggle and exposing Zionist, imperialist, and reactionary plots and schemes against our rights, steadfastness, and pan-Arab existence.

Egyptian, Cuban, CSSR Delegations Arrive

JN240803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian committee for solidarity, arrived in Damascus this evening to attend the international session marking the anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Ahmad Hamrush expressed his appreciation for the struggle of both the Syrian Arab people and their progressive leadership against imperialism and expansionist Zionism and also for their work to liberate Arab land. He stressed the Egyptian committee's firm and principled stand in support of all the measures taken by the Syrian Arab people for liberation and peace.

The Cuban and CSSR delegations for Afro-Asian solidarity also arrived in Damascus this afternoon. The Cuban group is led by the deputy chief of the Cuban Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples Solidarity Organization, while the CSSR delegation is headed by the secretary of the CSSR Committee for Solidarity With the People of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They will participate in the international seminar to be held in Damascus 25-27 April to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution and to express solidarity with the Syrian Arab people.

Qaddah Meets Cypriot Speaker, AAPSO Officials

JN261125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus — Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba‘th Party, met yesterday with Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives and chairman of AAPSO committee in the Republic of Cyprus, in the presence of Comrade Ahmad al-As‘ad, deputy chairman of the AAPSO Committee in Syria.

During the meeting, they reviewed the existing ties of amity between the two peoples in the two friendly states, the latest developments in the Arab world, and our country's firm and principled stand under our great party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad in its confrontation of imperialist and Zionist challenges. Comrade Qaddah emphasized our country's support for the Cypriot people in their efforts to secure the territorial integrity of their country and enhance their sovereignty and independence. Dr Lissaridhis highlighted his backing of the Arab cause and paid tribute to our country's pan-Arab and principled stands against hostile schemes.

Afterward, Comrade Qaddah received Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian AAPSO Committee and explained to him our country's policy, which rejects separate agreements and solutions that forfeit Arab rights, especially the Camp David accords. He also referred to the negative impact these accords have had on the Arab world. Hamrush stressed the patriotic stands of the Egyptian masses, who take pride in their pan-Arab and Arabist identity and spurn the Camp David accords. He also reaffirmed the Egyptian people's backing of the Syrian Arab people's struggle and their progressive leadership.

In addition, Comrade Qaddah received Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, vice chairman of AAPSO and vice chairman of the AAPSO Committee in Vietnam. During the session, they reviewed relations binding the two parties and peoples in the two friendly states. Comrade Qaddah then explained to the Vietnamese official the dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our country as well as our country's firm and principled stands against all hostile conspiracies. He also paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the heroic Vietnamese people to win their national independence and territorial integrity. He had high praise for the SRV's support of the Arab cause and our country's steadfastness.

For her part, Mrs Binh noted that AAPSO stands by the heroic struggle waged by our country under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and paid tribute to the wise, principled, and courageous policies pursued by Arab Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. She also reiterated that her country is on the side of the Arab cause.

Cypriot Official Departs

JN271435 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, has left after a 3-day visit during which he participated in an international seminar on the October Revolution and Afro-Asian solidarity with Syria's struggle. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the head of the Foreign Ministry's European Department, the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Lissaridhis said the seminar was a success, particularly on the question of solidarity with Syria. Praising President al-Asad's letter to the symposium, he said it was entered as one of its important documents. Solidarity with the Syrian people, declared Lissaridhis, is solidarity with herothe BCP Central Committee Ideological Policy Department, left Damascus for Bulgaria today following a week-long visit to Syria.

U.S. Urges Shamir to Seize Peace Opportunity

TA271854 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The United States has sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir calling on Israel to seize the opportunity created recently in the peace process in the region. This has been learned by our political correspondent Yig'al Goren. Senior political sources in Jerusalem said today that the message may have been sent by President Reagan himself. These sources voiced their assessment that the message was sent in the wake of special ambassador Wat Cluverius' latest shuttle trip between Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. It seems that at the end of this shuttle trip the United States arrived at the conclusion that the conditions have been created for an international peace conference that would not substitute for direct negotiations.

Our political correspondent adds that several individuals who spoke to the vice prime minister in the last few days gained the impression that Mr Peres had received a position paper from King Husayn confirming that Jordan would agree to direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference. These persons also gained the impression that Mr Peres may submit his proposal for direct negotiations with Jordan to the cabinet within 2 weeks.

Shamir Discusses PLO, Ties With USSR, France

LD271441 Paris International Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yatzhaq Shamir, by Claude Mazaud in Israel before Shamir's departure on official visit to France; date not specified — recorded]

[Excerpts][passage omitted] Relations between France and Israel are excellent despite differences on the international peace conference. The Israeli prime minister stated this in an interview he agreed to give to Claude Mazaud, our correspondent in Israel, for Radio France Internationale. Listen to Yitzhaq Shamir: [passage omitted]

[Mazaud] Prime Minister, do you not fear — with regard to the debates in Algiers, you have used the word terrorist on several occasions — do you not fear a new hardening of the PLO, new actions?

[Shamir] The PLO always wants to carry out acts of terrorism against us. Fortunately, thanks to our security services they do not succeed in carrying them out. We know very well that every day, every night, terrorist organizations are trying to carry out some kind of act against us and that it does not depend on the decisions of one conference or another; it is a permanent wish of these people and these organizations. But they do not succeed, they succeed in nothing because we have our motivation. We are quite determined in live in this country, and to live in this country in peace and in security. They should know that in practice there is no chance of their struggle ever achieving success.

[Mazaud] Prime Minister, the other day you made a statement about Jerusalem. You said that for you, Jerusalem will always remain the capital of Israel?

[Shamir] I do not think there are people in the world who have any doubt about this subject. One can see the current situation of Jerusalem well: It is a town that is growing and flourishing, a town of peace, a town that people come to visit from all the corners of the world — even enormous quantities of Arabs from hostile countries. Everybody comes to Jerusalem.

They visit the holy places without any hindrance. Jerusalem will always be the eternal capital of the Jewish peoples.

[Mazaud] One last question prime minister. It concerns your relations with the USSR. Are you of the impression that a certain number of things are happening, that things are going to improve, and then perhaps one day diplomatic relations will be resumed?

[Shamir] What is clear is that the USSR wants to give the impression that it is ready to improve its relations with us. It (?wants) first of all to have a better image in the United States. It thinks that it can achieve such an image by improving relations with us, but up until now there have only been symbolic steps. But I would say [that there will not be] public relations without specific changes; that is to say that the doors of the Soviet Union are not doors that are open to all Jews who want to leave the USSR and come to Israel. Some hundreds of people are given permission to leave; that is not a massive change nor what we want, or what we desire. As far as relations with the state of Israel are concerned, one sees nothing at all. On the contrary the USSR wants to become an important factor in the diplomatic settlement in our region without thinking of achieving normal relations with the state of Israel. It says that it is not thinking of that, it will not do that until Israel changes its policy. We believe that this is a discriminatory attitude as the USSR has normal relations with many countries whose policy it does not accept. Well, for the moment I do not see a change. I would like to see one, of course. It is in our interests to have normal relations with one of the most important and most powerful countries in the world, and we are also interested in relations from the point of view of the Soviet policy toward our Jewish brothers in Russia, but unfortunately up to this time one has seen no changes.

Confirms Reagan Message

TA280719 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from Paris by program moderator Ilana Dayan on 27 April; recorded]

[Text] [Dayan] Mr Shamir, Shalom.

[Shamir] Shalom.

[Dayan] Have you managed to convince your French interlocutors that an international conference — which is one of the issues in your talks — is a disaster, as you put it?

[Shamir] I would not say that I managed to convince them. However, my interlocutor, Jacques Chirac, is not enthusiastic about the whole issue, and he does not even believe that all this will come about.

[Dayan] Do you know that the message you received from the United States has been made public in Israel — the message in which President Reagan personally calls on you to take advantage of the last opportunity, as the Americans see it, to advance the political process in the Middle East? Have you received such a message?

[Shamir] I received a message. I do not think that this is precisely what it said. However, the President believes — and I have known this for a few days — that perhaps this path should be examined.

[Dayan] The path of an international conference?

[Shamir] An international conference.

[Dayan] Apparently Minister Moshe Arens has not had great success if his intention was to dissuade the Americans from this idea.

[Shamir] This is not a matter of success or a lack of success; it is a matter of explaining our positions. After all, Israel is the country that must decide whether this is good for it or not. Without Israel, such a conference cannot take place.

[Dayan] However, it will be very hard for Israel to make a decision against a conference if the Americans are firmly opposed to such a decision.

[Shamir] No. I do not think the Americans have a clear-cut position, and they will not try to force any decision on Israel.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, please permit me to update you about another thing that happened since you left Israel. Minister 'Ezer Weizman announced he is willing to meet with 'Arafat, and the latter announced his willingness to meet with Weizman. Things are happening.

[Shamir, laughing] For me all this amounts to nothing. Neither Weizman's initiative nor 'Arafat's answer surprises me. I hope this meeting will not take place.

[Dayan] This meeting might yet surprise us.

[Shamir] I hope it will not take place, because it can only cause great damage to Israel.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, how do you view the closure of the PLO offices in Cairo? Israel has been calling on Egypt to do this for a long time. Is this the end of the hopes of involving the PLO in the political process?

[Shamir] I would like to think so, but unfortunately I cannot say this is the end of the matter. However, we have told Egypt many times that there is a deep contradiction between Egypt's interests — which is a country with its own interests, with a desire for security and stability — and between the PLO's interests, which are to destroy Israel and wreak death and instability upon the region. This contradiction of interests has found its expression now.

[Dayan] Now that the PLO has emerged from Algiers as more extremist, united, and rejectionist, do you think there is a possibility of the emergence of a moderate leadership in the territories — a leadership anxiously awaited by Shim'on Peres?

[Shamir] Unfortunately the PLO has an influence over the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. This is not only a political and moral influence. The PLO terrorizes the population; it uses the weapon of terror against Arabs who prefer a different course. We must take into consideration the fact that the PLO is an obstacle to peace. In this it excels. It does not constitute a danger to our security or existence, but it is a danger to peace.

[Dayan] Finally, Mr Prime Minister, before leaving for France you said there is a special excitement for you in visiting France. This is a country in which you served in a different position. Were you excited upon landing in Paris?

[Shamir] Certainly. I was received by a smiling sun and wonderful weather. I received a most splendid reception, and I am enjoying my stay here.

[Dayan] Did you have time to recall the secret jobs you fulfilled there many years ago?

[Shamir] I have no time to deal with memories, but they live within me.

PM's Office on Reagan Message

TA280816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] In the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem it is said that if there is a historical opportunity to advance toward peace, Mr Shamir is willing to immediately launch direct talks with Jordan, Egypt, and Palestinian representatives, on the basis of the Camp David formula. This was the reaction of Shamir's office to the message from President Reagan, in which the latter emphasized the opportunity to achieve peace.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that Minister Arens briefed the prime minister on his talks with George Shultz in Washington. Minister Arens got the impression that the United States is skeptical about the results of an international conference.

Foreign Minister Peres will visit the United States in approximately 2 weeks, and the Prime Minister's Office believes that only after this visit will Washington consolidate its final position.

Labor Sources: Peres, Husayn Reach Agreement

TA280531 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Apr 87 pp 1,2

[Report by party affairs correspondent Dorit Gefen, and correspondent in the territories Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has in hand an agreement in principle by Jordan and international elements on a number of principles they believe will enable the opening of the political process through an international conference. This has been said by senior Labor Party sources. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned from Palestinian circles in the West Bank that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met last week with King Husayn. Issues related to the political process and the international conference were discussed in depth during the 7-hour meeting. Apparently in the wake of this meeting, Rabin and Peres issued statements in support of Jordan and against the settlements.

Our correspondent has learned that according to the agreed-upon document of principles, the UN secretary general will convene the international conference. This in turn will allow for a declaration on the beginning of peace talks that will be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the search for a solution to the Palestinian problem in its entirety.

The international conference will elect three geographical committees through which direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries will be held. This will mark the end of the international conference's role in the process.

The three geographical committees are a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee, which will discuss the Palestinian issue; the second committee will be an Israeli-Syrian one, on condition that Syria joins in the peace talks; the third committee will be an Israeli-Lebanese one. It was also decided that all the participants will recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and will denounce violence and terrorism. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies Husayn Meeting

TA281033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that if need be he will opt for elections because the chance for peace now is a one-time opportunity and must not be missed. Shim'on Peres made these remarks in Haifa in a talk with our correspondent Haviva Roger.

[Begin recording] [Roger] King Husayn's declaration in support of direct negotiations after an international opening is not a surprise to me, says Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] I have constantly said — and now the Americans have apparently confirmed this — that Jordan is prepared to enter direct, bilateral negotiations with an international opening — that is, an international conference that would have no authority whatsoever to impose solutions and would not replace direct negotiations but rather open the way for such negotiations.

[Roger] Mr Peres nevertheless denies the reports claiming that he held a lengthy talk with King Husayn. He also added that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is making a mistake if under these circumstances he opposes the continuation of the peace process.

[Peres] I think that Mr Shamir has made mistakes on other occasions. For example, even Mr Shamir disagreed with Mr Begin on several issues, such as on the Camp David accords. It is natural for there to be an argument. But the argument is not over an international conference; the argument is over the peace process. This is constantly being distorted. We are not fighting over an international conference. We agree to an international opening in order to attain direct negotiations on peace. This is a very great opportunity, and should not be missed. It goes beyond all the usual and acceptable party scheming, and if need be, we will approach the people. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ on Husayn Position

TA280629 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] King Husayn is prepared to enter into direct negotiations with Israel and to make do with an "international opening" as proposed by Israel and the United States. An announcement to this effect was conveyed to Jerusalem and Washington, in the light of which President Reagan sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In the message, which arrived 2 days ago, Reagan urges Shamir not to miss the "historic opportunity" that has been created in the region. The message arrived after Minister Moshe Arens' meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during which Arens tried to persuade the Americans to withdraw their support for an international conference.

It has been learned that in a talk Husayn held last week with members of the American Council on Foreign Relations, currently visiting Israel, the king voiced his explicit willingness to enter into direct negotiations with Israel without the PLO in light of the organization's insistent refusal to join the peace process by recognizing UN Resolution 242. Husayn, however, stressed that he will have to find Palestinian representatives who would be members of the joint delegation with Jordan for negotiations with Israel. Husayn even said that Syria is also interested in joining the political process because of its reservations about the PLO leadership.

The details of Husayn's new position were conveyed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but he remains opposed to the plan which Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres presented to him. The latter regards the change as an important achievement for the peace process because for many months contacts with Jordan have been held through special envoy Wat Cluverius in an attempt to attain the monarch's agreement to detach the international conference forum from the geographic committees in the framework of which direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab participants, especially Jordan, will be conducted.

During that entire period, Husayn demanded that the political plan contain a clause stating that in the event of differences of opinion or an impasse in the committee deliberations, it will be possible to approach the forum that would comprise the five permanent members of the Security Council. Peres strongly objected to this, and now that this obstacle has been removed, Shamir is claiming this is not sufficient because this formula does not ensure that the international conference will not interfere in the direct negotiations. In contrast, the United States regards this as a significant achievement, and it is expected that following Peres' visit to the United States next month, he and the Americans will prepare a joint plan for direct negotiations after an opening is declared through the international conference. Peres is determined to bring the plan to the government for a decision and even to opt for elections if the Likud thwarts this initiative.

Rabin on Direct Negotiations With Jordan

TA271915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Labor Party Planning Committee that the solution to the Palestinian problem cannot be disassociated from direct negotiations with Jordan. Rabin also said he could not stop Minister 'Ezer Weizman from holding talks with PLO officials outside Israel. Sabra Chartrand reports:

Rabin said he believes there would be no peace with Egypt if Al-Sadat had insisted that another Arab state participate in the Camp David talks. The only way to achieve peace is with a sovereign Arab nation which decides to pursue peace without leaning on other countries. Rabin told the Labor Party Planning Committee the problem now is to bring Jordan into negotiations with Israel. We have reached the point where our object is to have another Arab state decide to seek peace without linking negotiations to any other country. The solution to the Palestinian problem, Rabin declared, cannot be divorced from a negotiated settlement with Jordan. No other alternative stands a chance of succeeding or has any purpose, Rabin reiterated, because the only partner we have is Jordan.

Rabin rejected the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, as partners to any negotiations despite the fact that committee members pointed out that Jordan's King Husayn has refused to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians without the participation of the PLO. In response to Yasir 'Arafat's invitation to Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman to discuss prospects for peace and Weizman's response that he would agree if 'Arafat were to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338, Rabin would only say that he could not stop Weizman from leaving the country.

MK Edri on 'Diplomatic Mission' to Morocco

TA280418 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Labour MK [Knesset member] Rafi Edri is en route to Morocco from the U.S. on a diplomatic mission on behalf of Foreign Minister Peres, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

A senior Moroccan figure visited Israel ten days ago to prepare for Edri's trip.

Another Israeli emissary is understood to have been sent to another Middle Eastern country also in connection with Peres' diplomatic efforts.

IDF Orders Deportation of Fatah Activist

TA271608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Commander of the Central Command Major General Ehud Baraq has ordered the deportation of Marwan Khatib al-Barghuthi of the village of (Qubal) near Ramallah. Al-Barghuthi was the chairman of the student council at Bi'r Zayt University and a prominent activist on behalf of the Fatah organization. He is charged with instigating violent demonstrations and large-scale disturbances, organizing activities for Fatah, and having relations with hostile elements in the region. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Al-Shawwa on Closure of PLO Cairo Offices

TA280428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa says Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's closure yesterday of PLO offices in Cairo is a natural reaction to what he called the wretched decisions of the PNC. Al-Shawwa, who is one of the most prominent Palestinians in the administered territories, told Israel Radio that many were disappointed with the decisions of the Algiers conference.

Soviet Cultural Delegation To Visit Mid-May

TA270913 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 87 p 6

[Report by Yanir Alfiya]

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation is scheduled to arrive in Israel on 15 May and remain for about 2 weeks. Political circles in Jerusalem are following the arrival with great interest in view of the contradictory rumors on the topic of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Up to this week there has been great lack of clarity regarding the composition of the delegation because of the Russians' hesitations. Finally a senior level delegation was decided on, to be headed by Sergei Borozdin, the secretary of the Soviet authors union and the chief editor of the monthly *Friendship Among the Peoples*. Accompanying him will be film director Bukov Rolan, the secretary of the cinema workers union in the Soviet Union; Andrei Solovyev, a member of the Soviet presidium of companies for friendly and cultural relations abroad and the deputy director of the Middle East Department in this body; and Vladimir Kotzteks, a journalist in the NOVOSTI news agency.

In addition to the political figures three artists have also been included in the delegation: folk singer Nataliya Boriskova, bass Leonid Zamenenko, and musician Boris Tekrov. The artists will apparently appear at public rallies and performances to encourage friendship between the two peoples.

The Soviet delegation is officially coming to mark the 42d anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany. Its members will participate in Victory Day events to be held on 16 May in the Red Army Forest in the Jerusalem Hills. The delegation will be hosted by the Israel-Soviet Union Friendship Association. Although offically no meetings have been set between members of the Soviet delegation and people from the Israeli Administration, public or secret meetings between delegation members and people identified with the Israeli establishment are expected.

ALGERIA

Defense Ministry Official Reports on USSR Visit
LD261349 Algiers APS in English 1042 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Algiers, 26/4/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Saturday here, the secretary general of the Ministry of National Defence, Mostefa Chelloufi who briefed him on the mission he made to the Soviet Union at the head of a military delegation.

General Chelloufi paid an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Defence Ministry. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

'Weak' Egyptian Regime Closes PLO Offices
LD272134 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The Egyptian regime has severed all its relations with the Palestinian Arab people, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, announced today at the closure of all PLO offices and institutions in Egypt. The Moroccan regime already severed its relations with the PLO last week and closed down all its offices in Morocco. Hence, it becomes plainly clear that the one who is related to the enemy and who pawns its abilities to the enemies of the Arab nation should sever its relations with the Palestinian Arab people. The least that can be said about the decisions made by the regimes is that they are weak, aimless, and confused. These regimes have no say in the matter because they have allowed themselves to become pawns of the Zionists and imperialists.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PPSF Leader Ghawshah
LD271531 Tripoli JANA in English
1020 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 27, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution received yesterday Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary-general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

Released British Engineer Admits Guilt
LD241341 Tripoli JANA in English 1130 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Tayr 24, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — JANA representative interviewed last night Robert Maxwell and his wife who are staying with their little son in one of Tripoli's hotels.

Mr. Maxwell began the interview by saying:

"I would like to thank a lot Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people. I thank Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who interfered personally for my release, and I am greatful to be released."

In the course of his reply to a question put by JANA representative about his feelings after his release and reunion with his family, he said: "The way I was treated in prison was always good and nice, everything I wanted was granted to me and everybody treated me really good."

As to the question of whether he thought he committed a crime, Mr. Maxwell replied: "According to the Libyan law, I was guilty, because I committed a crime, working on one hand on my practical capacity as a technician, and on the other hand carrying out illegal operations, which was a crime, and which made me guilty."

When asked about Mrs. Thatcher decision to sever diplomatic relations with Libya, Robert Maxwell said:

"I think it is better for the two nations, the British and the Libyans, to work towards establishing better and normal relations between them. I am not against the Libyan people and prefer the resumption of the British-Libyan relations, at least this is my personal feeling."

As to the date he arrived at the great Jamahiriyah, the reasons behind his arrival and the way he was treated by Libya during his stay, he said:

"I came to Libya to work, in 1977, and from experience I have found the Libyan people very friendly and generous. I realised that from the first year I spent here, and even during my period in prison. Not in a single day, I found any difficulties, on the contrary I found all sort of help from the Libyans."

Mrs Maxwell who attended the interview, with her little son, said, she approved of what her husband had said, and she likes Libya from all her heart.

JANA representative asked Mrs Maxwell what she feels, seeing her husband released, she said:

"I am delighted that my son and I were reunited to my husband after all this time. I would like to thank Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for personally interfering in favour of my husband and the kindness he requested to be bestowed on him during his period in prison, and I thank you all here in Libya."

When asked about the sort of treatment she thought her husband had been subjected to, she said: "I think, from the way he looks, and his good health, he must have been properly treated. I had the chance to visit him several times in prison and I acknowledge, I spent nice days in Libya. The weather is nicer here, nicer than Britain."

Mrs Maxwell was asked her view about the British Government decision to deny Libyan families the right to visit their sons, kept under arrest in Britain? She answered saying: "It is a pity that the British Government takes such an action. I hope that the friendly and normal relations between the British people and the Libyan people will be restored. [no closing quotation marks received]

MAURITANIA

Algeria's Benjedid Issues Departure Statement

LD272312 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Our visit to Mauritania is within the framework of fraternal relations. We have also come here to express Algeria's support to the Mauritanian people and their leaders in everything related to Mauritania's security, stability and unity. This is the introduction to a press statement made by President Chadli Bendjedid in Nouadibou shortly before his departure for Algiers.

With President Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya we reviewed the state of cooperation between the two countries. As you had the opportunity to notice, we participated in the inauguration of an important project and visited [words indistinct], President Bendjedid added. This shows the sincere wish and the degree of mutual trust existing between Algeria and Mauritania, he said.

We have also agreed to increase efforts to examine new possibilities for future cooperation in the light of the fraternal relations existing between the two countries, which are linked by good-neighborly relations and by our unshakeable faith in the construction of the Arab Maghreb and the future of its people.

This visit, he stressed, was an opportunity for an exchange of viewpoints on a host of issues of interest for the two countries, particularly in the Arab Maghreb region, the Arab world and Africa. The views of our two countries converge as regards both the analysis of these issues and the solutions to be applied to the problems facing Africa and the Arab world, the head of state noted.

The head of state, who has returned to Algiers, during his visit to Mauritania received a very warm popular welcome, both in the capital, Nouckchott, and in Nouadibou.

A press communique sanctions this friendship and working visit. The talks took place in an atmosphere of trust, comradely feelings and total understanding. The communique stresses the similarity of views on the matters discussed.

AFP Reviews Communique

AB271910 Paris AFP in French 1707 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Apr (AFP) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Mauritania this afternoon after a 2-day visit during which he traveled, in particular, to Nouadhibou, north of the country. This visit occurs at a time when the Nouakchott government is particularly concerned about the development of the Western Sahara conflict.

The Nouadhibou visit was mainly devoted to the inauguration of a project financed by Algeria, but observers have pointed out the symbolic nature of this trip to a location situated only about 60 kms away from the sixth defense wall built by Morocco to deny Saharan fighters access to the Atlantic coast.

According to the communique issued at the end of this visit, the Algerian head of state and the Mauritanian president, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, "examined the disturbing development in the situation in the region and its implications on the building of the great Maghreb."

The communique did not explicitly state whether the situation created by the construction of the sixth Moroccan wall south of the Western Sahara was discussed by the two heads of state, but observers think that this issue was at the center of their talks.

The Algerian president said before leaving for Algiers that his visit fell within the framework of the treaty of fraternity and harmony, a sort of defense pact between Algeria, Mauritania, and Tunisia, and that he had come to express Algeria's support and solidarity with the Mauritanian people.

The Algerian president's visit to Mauritania fell at a time when Nouakchott's concern about being dragged into the Western Sahara war by the two parties to the conflict, namely Morocco and the Polisario Front, is increasing, as the war is in an area considered to be the economic mainstay of the country.

The press communique also stated that "the two heads of state shared similar views on the issues they discussed," adding that "in accordance with the spirit of fraternity and harmony, the two heads of state agreed to continue their political talks and to pursue and extend cooperation to all areas, in a mutually advantageous framework, to meet the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples of Algeria and Mauritania."

Observers see, in the wording of this communique, the open readiness of Algeria to help Mauritania in the face of the threats posed to President Ould Taya's regime by the construction of the sixth Moroccan defense wall. The two presidents on Tuesday morning [day as received] visited a gas center in Nouakchott where gas is loaded into cylinders, before going on to Nouadhibou to inaugurate a petrol refinery which has been returned to operation through a $24 million Algerian loan.

Finally, according to the communique, the two presidents also reviewed the disturbing situation in both Africa and the Arab world.

Taya Receives PRC Assistant Trade Minister

AB270909 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, this morning received His Excellency Wang Wendong, the PRC assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade, who has been visiting Nouakchott since Thursday, 23 April. Also present were Soumare Oumar, the Mauritanian minister of water supply and energy, and the PRC ambassador to Mauritania.

After their discussions PRC Ambassador [name indistinct] stated that the audience took place shortly after the inauguration by the head of state of the second (?Diguili)-Nouakchott water supply pipeline that testifies to the deep friendship and solidarity existing between the Chinese and Mauritanian peoples. [passage omitted]

MOROCCO

Mitterrand Discusses Visit in News Conference

LD251645 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakesh, 25 Apr (MAP) — French President Francois Mitterrand, who concluded his visit to Morocco yesterday, reviewed with representatives of the national and international press many issues of interest to Moroccan-French relations as well as a number of current international issues, particularly the Middle East problem and the chances of holding an international conference to solve it.

He also replied to journalists' questions on East-West relations, disarmament, missiles in Europe, the situation in Africa, and relations between the north and south. The following is the text of the French president's remarks:

Ladies and gentlemen: Before having our lunch, let us have a chat. You may ask me any questions of interest to you. Like me, you have embarked on this brief visit and have followed some of its aspects through the inauguration of the Moulay Hassan I Dam.

We are here to spend a period of rest and leisure with our hosts. You have seen at close hand the extent of their welcome and the warmth with which they have received us. I believe too, that you, who have come here, have preoccupations other than enjoyment of the visit. Hence, I will leave it for you to express your thoughts.

Question: Mr President, what problems did you discuss during your talks with his majesty the king?

Answer: This is a rather broad question. If you had asked a clear question I would be able to answer. But what else can one discuss at this moment if not the problems which are facing the world and particularly this region. I do not mean Morocco in particular but Africa, Europe, the eastern Mediterranean region, the Near East as well as the Middle East as a whole, also some economic problems. However, if you want more details then we can continue and deepen our dialogue.

Question: Did you discuss with his majesty the king the forthcoming international conference for peace in the Middle East?

Answer: Yes, I did. But whether this conference is forthcoming or not I do not know. We talked, however, about the hoped for conference and we thought that it would be best and more rewarding if all those who have a genuine and inalienable interest in our region would meet around one table. I mean at this moment — and I am referring to your question about the Palestinian problem as well as Israel's relations with the Arab world and all related problems — that in our opinion it would be better to bring together all genuine parties. Diplomats know how to prepare the proposal for resolving those problems which have yet to be solved. You know that the French initiative, which proceeded from various proposals put forward by some countries, particularly by a number of Arab countries, was a defined concept and included preparations, with the cooperation with concerned countries as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, for the convening of the conference. This initiative has been accepted by a number of countries; However, it has not been officially accepted by certain other countries. However, it is in the process of approval. His majesty the Moroccan king and myself, that is, France and Morocco, are in full agreement with this initiative. Procedures will, however, be defined later.

President Mitterrand was asked whether PLO unity constitutes a positive step toward the realization of peace in the Middle East. He replied: I hope so. It is something that exists. Its international existence is looked at from various angles, as you know, and by all the states concerned in the Middle East and the Near East. In Paris there is a PLO mission which has special status. Relations are established and they continue. It is better that one should deal with a cohesive and coordinated movement instead of a movement in which one-upmanship is practiced indefinitely. There are leaders who can express their views in the name of the Palestinian fighters and people, and we should call things by their name. This problem can be dealt with in a better way but it is not my specialty to indulge in these discussions. That basically concerns the Palestinians. If we want to give a wider meaning to this concept then this concerns the Arab countries in particular. You are now asking me about my view and I will express it to you, but I do not want to dictate anything to those who are defending what they consider to be their land and country and who alone have the right to define the means and methods of their action.

Question: Mr President, no doubt you raised with His Majesty King Hassan II the question of Ceuta and Mellila.

Answer: Yes, we did refer to that. But as far as this issue is concerned I want to tell you that not long ago I visited Spain and and I had the same answer to such a question put to me by a Spanish journalist. Such issues in fact concern the sovereignty of both countries — Spain and Morocco — and France is a friendly country to both of them. We hope that both countries will reach a friendly settlement of the problem. Apart from this the issue does not concern us at all.

Question: But France knows the issue and its implications well.

Answer: Yes, it does know this issue.

Question: For reasons relating to European unity and the northern shores of the Mediterranean, can France go beyond the stage of giving advice to both countries?

Answer: In this case, no. The right to sovereignty should be exercised in full. A friend's advice is useful, I hope. This is what I can say. International law is international law and we abide by it.

Asked about the events that took place during the opening session of the PNC, which is being held in Algiers, and the relations between the PLO and Morocco, President Mitterrand said: I cannot say anything. I have no intention of acting on behalf of the responsible officials of this country or these organizations. I have, indeed, read the papers and the news and learned of Morocco's refusal, during the opening session of the PNC held in Algiers, to approve of a matter which seemed to it to be contrary to the good work of the council.

As to my views on the matter, I note that despite its indignation, Morocco did not fail to affirm with a great deal of political insight that its position toward the PLO's rights and jurisdictions has not changed.

As regards the missiles in Europe and the relations between the north and the south, President Mitterrand said that France is not a party to the dialogue, which is confined to the United States and the USSR. This matter is of interest to us and to all the European countries because it concerns the presence of arms on European soil. It is also of interest to the world peoples because peace and war depend on it.

I fully understand your question. But this applies to the zero option as it is understood and as defined since 1979 by NATO and as expounded and expressed anew by U.S. President Reagan in 1981 and as recalled in the resolutions of NATO of only 3 months ago. The zero option concerns long-range missiles. To simplify matters, with some exaggeration, that is, the SS-20 missiles on the one hand and the Pershing-2 missiles on the other and without disregarding the ICBM, France in this case would be fully agreeable to this type of disarmament. [sentence as received]

As to the second zero option, it has been covered by the negotiations between the Americans and the Soviets. It concerns the medium-range nuclear forces. The first group of missiles has a range of 1,000 to 4,500 km, while the second group has a range of between 500 to 1000 km.

Furthermore, France is not concerned. It is not directly concerned with the arrangements of disarmament. However, it looks with appreciation on these negotiations. Shultz acquainted us with these proposals and the U.S. counterproposals when he discussed the matter with the French foreign minister, Bernard Raimond, who is present here.

There are three solutions: either acceptance of the proposals, or their rejection, or the zero option, which is the third solution. This last one has not yet entered the diplomatic sphere. The press talk about it. Some politicians believe that the Soviets might raise this matter one day. As this has not happened yet, there is no need to take a stand in respect of a problem that has not occurred, I mean in regard to the short range missiles, the ones with a range of less than 500 km. France has nothing to feel embarrassed about because France expresses what it believes in complete freedom. France says most clearly yes to the zero option and to the long-range missiles.

As to the medium-range nuclear forces, it is better that there should be a balance between the East and West in regard to this matter, at the lowest possible level.

As to the short-range missiles, the matter has not yet been raised.

In answer to a question regarding France's attitude toward the problem of disarmament, President Mitterrand said: France naturally belongs to NATO but not to the joint command. That is to say, it is not a party to the debate which led to the deliberations of 1979 and their consequences. France is consulted and it gives its opinion. We have good relations, naturally, with our allies. We can also give our opinion to Mr Gorbachev, who sent me envoys more than once to outline his views.

There is a problem which I talked a great deal about in front of our French journalists who know this and to whom I apologize if I gave them the impression that I am repeating what I have said before — with regard to this problem the question of definition is important. The division of these nuclear weapons in three types — strategic, medium-range, and tactical — is a division which concerns the Americans and the Soviets, and it has no great meaning as far as we are concerned. This is because what is strategic in the understanding of the two major negotiators is a weapon that can traverse the Atlantic. But we do not need to cross the Atlantic to be confronted by a number of problems of a military nature which concern our security, especially nuclear security. Therefore, I do not understand this definition. Such a distinction is in my view imaginary.

The total of the Soviet nuclear arsenal is, in my view, composed of European missiles [as received] because they can reach Western Europe, particularly France. If we want to destroy the European missiles, will this make the Soviet Union get rid of all nuclear weapons while the Americans do not? Can you see how this definition can deceive us when we want to analyze this matter seriously?

Answering a question about his recent visit to Algeria and his current visit to Morocco, President Mitterrand said: It is a simple matter as far as France is concerned. We are friends of Morocco and of Algeria and we therefore hope that accord will prevail. It may not be quite so simple for them but these problems, as I have already said, are linked to the sovereignty of each one of them. I hope that right and wisdom will ultimately win.

In answer to a question on the construction of a sixth Moroccan security wall near the Mauritanian border, the French president said: I am, of course, aware of the construction of the sixth wall and I talked about it for some time with his majesty the king yesterday evening. We spent several hours together and we discussed this matter in a simple and cordial manner, as usual. I do not see in the Moroccan position any aggressive intentions toward Mauritania. That question did not even arise because there are no aggressive intentions whatsoever. The problem, as the Mauritanians see it, is that the proximity of the wall to Mauritanian borders might lead the warring parties to cross into Mauritania in the event of battles breaking out, particularly, operations by the Polisario. This worries the Mauritanians. His majesty assured me that Morocco has no intention of encroaching on Mauritanian territory and that it is not his aim to make his enemies violate Mauritanian sovereignty. The problem might arise when the wall extends westward close to the area near Nouadibo but we have not got to that point yet. And I am sure that Moroccan diplomats are quite willing to discuss this matter with their neighbors.

As for the idea which he stated during his last visit to Morocco in January 1983 with regard to a meeting of all the Western Mediterranean states, President Mitterrand said: I sincerely hope that all the Mediterranean states will meet and be joined by Portugal in order to discuss their problems. I proposed this a few years ago and my proposal was met with some interest, but the necessary approvals did not come at the same time. Therefore, it can be said that talk about this issue has been suspended. If former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi had renewed the proposal 6 or 7 months ago by adding some states which are in the eastern Mediterranean and which have no dispute with their neighbors, such as Egypt and Yugoslavia, then I would have no objection to these states joining those states which I personally named. It appears that this has given rise to the attention of various states. I believe that in order to reach this it is necessary for the states located on both sides of the Mediterranean to settle their differences, if such differences exist, because it will be difficult for them to sit at a conference table if an atmosphere of confidence is not created. All I want is to see such an atmosphere prevailing as soon as possible.

Asked about the Gulf war and the efforts being made by France, President Mitterrand said: Such efforts were voiced by me several times and were expressed explicitly through France's stand at the Security Council, because France is a permanent member of the council. France voted on some resolutions and proposed others. France hopes that this war will stop without any advantage for this or that party, and we hope that peace and friendship will return between the Iraqi and Iranian peoples in this vital region for world peace and without any side feeling that it has been humiliated. France always votes to this purpose at the United Nations.

Concerning North-South relations, President Mitterrand said: If the whole of the industrialized world and the developing countries had reached the general level of the cooperation between France and Morocco — and we have a good example of this in the inauguration of this dam — there would have been nothing to worry about and great progress would have been achieved. We were hoping for the better, but aid is shrinking in contrast to what is taking place between Morocco and France. Since the Cancun summit some of the most industrialized countries have stopped giving international aid. I regret this very much and it has led me to appeal to the industrialized world to accept its responsibilities and interests because its real interest lies in renewing the exchanges, and for this to take place there should naturally be growth, production, exchange, and consumption in the developing countries.

When asked about the French teachers in Morocco, the French president said: Yes, I was in fact concerned with this topic. The foreign minister will closely follow up this issue. He has been sending senior officials in charge of cultural affairs at the Foreign Ministry and they will look into this problem. This issue has not, however, harmed French-Moroccan relations. We, the French, highly appreciated what the king had said. The matter must be clarified and that is why there are competent officials in charge of cultural affairs at the Foreign Ministry on the spot to check what the French teachers have been doing in Morocco.

Communique With Zaire Notes Mutual Interests

LD261539 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, 26 Apr (MAP) — A Moroccan-Zairian communique was issued following an official visit by Ekila Liyonda, the Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation. The text of the communique reads as follows:

Within the framework of the traditional friendship between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Republic of Zaire, and at the invitation of the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ekila Liyonda, Zaire's state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, paid an official visit to Morocco 19-23 April 1987, accompanied by an important delegation.

During the visit she was received in audience by the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II. The chief of the Zairian diplomatic service delivered his majesty the king a letter of friendship and fraternity from Marshal Mobutu Seso Seko. Ekila Liyonda also paid a visit to the Moroccan prime minister, Dr Azzidine Laraki.

She held talks with her counterpart, Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, in an atmosphere characterized by amity and understanding. Their talks covered bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The visit provided an opportunity for Ekila Liyonda and Abdellatif Filali to preside over the fifth joint Moroccan-Zairian Committee meetings.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made toward bolstering the bonds of cooperation between the two countries, and affirmed their determination to deepen their exchanges in the economic, trade, scientific, cultural and technological fields.

Ekila Liyonda and Abdellatif Filali expressed their pleasure at the spirit which prevailed over the work of the great Moroccan-Zairian Joint Committee, which reflected the deep and genuine character of the ties of friendship and solidarity between the two friendly peoples of Morocco and Zaire.

Ekila Liyonda and Abdellatif Filal decided to take all the necessary measures for linking the Moroccan town of Mohammedia and the Zairian town of Matadi. They also decided to form Moroccan-Zairian friendship groups and societies in both countries, particularly at the Moroccan National Assembly and Zairian Legislative Assembly levels. The Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation discussed various matters of common interest with her Moroccan counterpart.

With regard to the situation in Africa and the world, they noted with satisfaction the identity of views concerning the issues raised, and expressed their hope that the African continent would devote its efforts and major human and natural capabilities for the sake of the comprehensive liberation of the continent and its economic development and advancement. With regard to South Africa, they renewed their firm denunciation of the racial discriminatory regime, and affirmed their support for the South African people's struggle to establish a democratic regime. They also strongly denounced all maneuvers aimed at obstructing the transfer of authority to the majority in South Africa. In the face of the South African Government's persistence in rejecting UN resolutions, the two sides called for the implementation of compulsory and comprehensive sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime.

With regard to Namibia, the two sides expressed their support for UN Security Council Resolution No. 435, and demanded immediate independence for Namibia. They also denounced Pretoria's maneuvers aimed at delaying the proclamation of independence, and expressed their rejection of the attempts to link the presence of Cuban forces in Angola and the country's attainment of independence.

They expressed their concern over the deterioration of the situation in southern Africa, and reiterated their support for the Frontline States. During their discussions the two sides affirmed the importance of the development of cooperation and harmony among African countries with a view to overcoming the negative effects of the economic crisis and encouraging development and growth throughout the continent.

For this reason, and due to the continuous decline in monetary values, the two sides called for the establishment of a more favorable system of international cooperation with a view to introducing lasting and effective changes in respect to debts, thus enabling Third World economies to revive.

In conclusion, Ekila Liyonda, Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, expressed her warm thanks to Abdellatif Filali for the great welcome and hospitality she and members of her delegation were given in Morocco.

Ekila Liyonda invited her Moroccan counterpart to pay an official visit to Zaire, which he gladly accepted. The date of the visit will be arranged.

Filali To Discuss Iran-Iraq War With USSR

LD271643 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali today left for Moscow to lead the Arab League's ministerial delegation entrusted with the task of briefing the Soviet leaders on the Arab states' position on the Iraq-Iran war.

SUDAN

Armed Forces To Forego 'Bright Star' Maneuvers

JN271949 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
25 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Khartoum — A ranking Sudanese military official told *Al-Ittihad* that the Sudanese Armed Forces have not participated in the "Bright Star" maneuvers since the overthrow of the May regime in April 1985, that Sudan remains committed to its stand of not participating in these maneuvers, and that Sudan does not believe these maneuvers are the true yardstick for assessing the Sudanese Armed Forces' capabilities.

The Sudanese military official was commenting on a report published in a Sudanese newspaper that the United States had proposed that Sudan hold the "Bright Star" maneuvers this year on a triangle on the Sudanese-Chadian border at whose apex is a Chadian village where the United States is currently building an airbase for its forces.

Official Examines Libyan-Chadian Dispute

JN271344 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (SUNA) — Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, member of a Sudanese committee to resolve the Chadian problem, has expressed Sudan's readiness to host a meeting in Khartoum between Libyan and Chadian officials. 'Umar told reporters here Sudan's efforts and initiative will not be confined to a ceasefire between the Chadian and Libyan sides, but will seek to bring the dispute to a definitive end, indicating he was optimistic.

He noted Algeria's potential role alongside Sudan in resolving the dispute, given its weight in the Arab and African arenas. 'Umar recalled the expressions of support by the Algerian president for the Sudanese initiative.

Earlier this month 'Umar visited Chad and Algeria as envoy of Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to Presidents Hissein Habre and Chadli Bendjedid concerning Sudan's effort to end the Chad dispute.

Al-Banna Returns From Algiers; Makes Statement

JN271429 Khartoum SUNA in English
1015 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 27 (SUNA) — Supreme Council Vice-President Idris al-Banna returned here Sunday from Algiers after taking part in the 18th session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

Al-Banna said that his visit to Algeria realized its objective satisfactorily and that the Sudan delegation had played an important role with regard to the removal of the differences between the Palestinian factions.

He added that his meetings with Algerian president stressed the necessity of consolidating spheres between the two countries.

Islamic Delegation Returns From Visit to PRC

JN271513 Khartoum SUNA in English
1020 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 27 (SUNA) — A delegation of the Islamic National Front (INF) Sunday returned from People's China concluding a ten-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese Society for International Understanding and the Chinese Islamic Society.

The Front's Secretary General Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi said they had contacted some political and Islamic leaders there as well as visiting economic, cultural and Islamic centres.

"Moslems there enjoy freedom of worship and their mosques are increasing," he said.

The attitudes of People's China and the (INF) are identical towards the question of peace, just and international relations and towards the questions of Palestine and Afghanistan, he said.

The visit gave them the opportunity to witness the Chinese experiment in economic development which is based on self-reliance, Al-Turabi said.

"It was clear that China was keen to safeguard its cultural originality throughout the development process," he said.

Al-Turabi further announced that they toured a number of regions, visited Hong Kong and met with the Islamic community there.

DUP Member Cites 'Fruitful' Talks With SPLM

JN271750 Khartoum SUNA in English
1730 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum April 27, (SUNA) — The co-ruling party in the government of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] announced that it has made its first contacts with the SPLM of John Garang and described the contacts as fruitful and will be a good news for all the political forces in Sudan, but declined to give further details.

Member of the Constituent Assembly [Parliament] and DUP Politbureau 'Abd al-Hakam Tayfur who returned here yesterday from Kenya and Ethiopia said today in a press statement that the outcome of contacts which he termed (the surprise] would be announced by the Party shortly. Tayfur met in his recent visit to Kenya and Ethiopia in his capacity as [DUP] member with leaders of the SPLM and got acquainted with their opinion on conducting peaceful dialogue for solving the southern Sudan question.

Some of the Sudanese political forces including the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Country, Al-Ummah Party of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Southern Sudan Political Association [SSPA], the Sudanese Communist Party and the National Islamic Front earlier conducted contacts with the leaders of SPLM.

Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had released on April 6 a new peace initiative for putting an end to the civil war in southern Sudan.

Radio SPLA Reports 25 Militiamen Killed

EA272231 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army English
1300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Twenty-five enemy militiamen have been killed and many others wounded in two separate clashes with the SPLA forces of Abu Shawk and Sobat under the command of Captain Moses Yukir on 23d and 24th April 1987, respectively. The first clash was between Ulang [eastern upper Nile] and Adong [south of Malakal], while the second one took place between Adong and Malakal. [passage omitted]

Officer Court-Martialled for Withdrawing Forces

EA271734 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Reliable sources in Khartoum and Juba have informed Radio SPLA that Brig Abdullah Hamid [name indistinct] Karamallah is being court-martialled for refusing to advance from Bor to recapture Pibor, and instead withdrew to Juba with his convoys. According to the sources, the brigadier argues that his mission was to open the Juba-Bor road and that he succeeded in his mission after 49 days of bitter fighting. When the brigadier and the force under his command arrived at Bor, the garrison town of Pibor fell to the SPLA and he was ordered to continue on to Pibor. His troops were exhausted and he disobeyed the orders and returned to Juba.

Commenting on this situation, the official SPLM-SPLA spokesman said that the brigadier was justified not to continue on to Pibor as he would have lost his whole force. The mission and size of force commanded by the brigadier was to re-open the Juba-Bor road, and after 49 days of fighting, the same force cannot be expected to recapture Pibor, as this is a separate mission that requires planning and a bigger force. The planners in Khartoum should not just push innocent soldiers into the fight. It is time these planners come to fight, the spokesman concluded.

TUNISIA

Political Bureau Considers Recent Unrest

LD280207 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Destourian Socialist Party held its regular meeting under the supervision of Mr Rachid Sfar, the secretary-general of the party. [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau studied the attempts at disturbance that were carried out by a corrupt gang under the cover of religion, and who are manipulated by foreign interests aimed at harming the regime, disturbing security, and spreading discord among the citizens. The Political Bureau praised the firmness shown wisely and bravely by the security forces in confronting and foiling these attempts. The Political Bureau praised the stance of the activists and citizens who did not go along with these attempts, but condemned them out of understanding and commitment. The Political Bureau, in recording with satisfaction this confrontation and condemnation, calls on the combatants, activists, and all citizens to continue their vigilance in order to isolate the corrupt persons and to firmly confront them in order to protect the stability of the country and its gains under the great Bourguibian regime.

WESTERN SAHARA

137 Moroccans Killed, 100 Wounded, 31 Captured

LD280834 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] A Saharan Liberation Army unit killed 137 Moroccan soldiers, including a captain and two lieutenants, and wounded 100 others in an operation that took place early last Sunday at [name indistinct] in the area of Guelta Zemmour, a statement said. According to the statement, the attack lasted for 3 hours, during which time the Saharan fighters destroyed three Moroccan positions along a front of 11 kms. [words indistinct] the defensive wall. The Moroccan Air Force intervened with a large number of aircraft and lost one aircraft of the [word indistinct] type whose pilot was killed. Thirty-one Moroccan soldiers were captured.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Addresses Election Commission 25 Apr

EA271022 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1724 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary of the WPE Central Committee, to the National Assembly Election Commission on 15 April; place not given — recorded]

[Text] Dear members of the National Assembly Election Commission: Our objectives, which are based on a correct understanding of (?the sacrifices made) by the people — who are the victorious makers of history — the confidence of the people, and the struggle that has been waged with the unreserved support of the people, have enabled us to reach this stage in our progress. The working people of Ethiopia are going to establish a people's government for the first time in the long history of this ancient country on the basis of the results of work in the various spheres of the struggle. This is the time when our country's people will lift their struggle to a higher plane in order to collectively solve common problems and apply the achievements of the revolution to the common interest. The tasks that have been fulfilled in the process and progress of our revolution, and the achievements that have enabled us to arrive at this new chapter of struggle and victory, will find their rightful place in history.

The broad and active participation of the people, as seen in the preparation and approval processes of our Constitution and the very satisfactory results attained, constitute concrete evidence of the correctness and popularity of our objectives. This evidence is the National Assembly election process, which will be coordinated by the commission.

Dear members of the commission, it is clear to all that we are now taking the final step toward establishing the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] on the basis of the preparations made in various areas. The efficient implementation of the National Assembly election will be fundamental to its success.

I feel honored in congratulating you on your election as members of this commission, established to coordinate and fulfill the securing of people's power as the final preparatory step toward opening the new chapter. You have been charged with a great responsibility and the people's confidence is vested in you.

It is known that the Ethiopian people have reached the present chapter of progress by passing through a very complex and difficult process of struggle. In the prerevolutionary period, various struggles were waged with a view to exposing and dismantling the evils of the feudal system. Progressive movements that tried to secure basic human and democratic political rights and solve various economic and social problems manifested themselves. Although such movements had to make huge sacrifices, the social forces involved in the struggle became very broad. Their aims found a clearer reflection in political consciousness, and it accordingly became possible to detonate the 1974 revolution. The Ethiopian people stood up as one to voice opposition nationwide, thus stirring up the 1974 revolutionary wave which shattered the political, economic, and social basis of the former regime.

It will be recalled that conditions for the assumption of direct power by the working people were not yet ripe. Nonetheless, the Ethiopian people did not give up their revolutionary action. On the contrary, they made all the sacrifices essential for the struggle by passing through the objective process necessary for securing people's power. Particularly by following the leadership of the PMAC, which shouldered its historic responsibility as the promoter of the people's objectives, and by virtue of their unwavering participation in the struggle, the people have reached this proud stage. The working people of Ethiopia have reached the brink of assuming direct power by resolving the various complex problems affecting the various stages of development; not through miracles, but by no means other than their firm commitment to the principled struggle.

The obstacles erected earlier at various levels by foreign and domestic counterrevolutionaries, coordinated and supported by international imperialism and reactionary forces, and the continuing problems created and attacks attempted by these antipopular and antidemocratic forces, while seeming to be different, were all aimed and continue to be aimed at foiling the progress made by the working people toward achieving the direct ownership of power. Meanwhile, the victories won by the people at various levels have contributed to creating conditions conducive to their assumption of direct ownership of power. Their direct participation in the tasks carried out to secure our victory, national development, and common progress now becomes more essential for the future than at any other time. There is no doubt that the working people have fully realized from experience that victory cannot be won without struggle and that struggle cannot be waged without sacrifice. They must accordingly forge ahead toward the set objectives to win further victories by making even greater efforts. The establishment of the Republic will make a great contribution toward this end.

Dear members of the commission, it is known that the working people of Ethiopia have clearly demonstrated their ability to reach a stage of enhanced practical activitity by virtue of the struggle they waged at all levels toward strengthening the progress of their revolution by heightening their political consciousness. In their performance of the revolutionary tasks within the mass organizations, in particular, and in their participation in discussing, deciding on, and implementing social programs, in general, they proved that they have acquired profound experience in practical democracy.

The efforts made in the context of our revolution's guiding ideology to heighten political consciousness have concretely demonstrated the advance of our political culture. Such an advance in attitude is not only an expression of the primary achievements of the revolution, but should be seen in the light of its significance for the future promotion of our cause. The Constitution's preparation and approval process, in particular, demonstrates the extent to which our people have been prepared for and comprehend the accelerated steps toward development.

The securing of the Constitution has enabled the people of Ethiopia to acquire a reliable instrument for the construction of the new system. According to the people's new Constitution, the commission has been charged with the responsibility of conducting the election of representatives to the National Assembly and taking the actions which will establish the Republic and make clear the high value of its mission.

As clearly laid down in the Constitution, the National Assembly, to be made up of the people's representatives and coordinated by this commission, will be the supreme organ of government power expressing the direct ownership of power by the working people. This body will represent the people of Ethiopia. They will participate in it. It will secure their supremacy and safeguard the unity and independence of Ethiopia, which has been attested to by history. The Assembly will be responsible for safeguarding the victories won by the people during the revolutionary years, making them the basis and starting point for additional victories to liberate Ethiopia from backwardness and lay down the material and technical basis essential to the construction of the socialist system under which common progress based on equality will prevail.

According to the decree [not further identified] and the strategies laid down in the Constitution, it will be a body to make the equality of our nationalities a reality. The Assembly will enact laws to secure the freedom, rights, and duties of citizens as laid down in our Constitution. It will also supervise the concrete implementation of the laws. In addition, the Assembly will be a body that will determine the rights and duties of Constitutional organs, that will be given extensive powers to handle these and other basic issues laid down in our Constitution, and that will exercise the necessary supervision required to ensure that these organs have properly discharged their responsibilities.

Inasmuch as the National Assembly will be the supreme body of power in making decisions on all national affairs, it will not be possible to limit its responsibilities and powers. There will be no national issue that does not concern the National Assembly, except those which must be decided with the direct participation of the people. The effectiveness of the important programs of the nation and the people to be decided on by the National Assembly will be determined above all by the competent and conscious participation of each and every representative. Under our Constitution, every member of the Assembly is a fully authorized representative of the working people and the tasks they will perform in their capacity as members will be performed on behalf of the working people. That is why the results achieved will be examined in terms of the extent to which they reflect and correspond with the interests of the working people.

By examining the major responsibilities entrusted to the National Assembly by the people it is possible to understand the gravity of the responsibilities its members will bear. As the task of identifying capable and willing representatives will not be easy, the electoral process will require the special attention of the people as well as their vigilant and comprehensive participation. The people's representatives are expected to play their part in looking after the interests and needs of the people by establishing contact with the electorate and listening to its views. It is necessary to understand that the representatives' functions are not confined to reflecting or defending the interests of the people of their localities.

As the Constitution clearly states, the National Assembly's mission is a national one; it is a body that should focus on the interests and needs of the entire Ethiopian people. The thoughts and actions of each representative must be based primarily on looking after the interests and needs of the entire Ethiopian people, so they can achieve tangible results, realize the objectives of the revolution, and make an effective contribution to the general success of their mission. When we examine in detail the results of work done to reach the people's goals, we see that they cannot go beyond looking after the interests and desires of the people.

Each representative is primarily a representative of all the people of Ethiopia rather than being a representative of the people who have elected him. Therefore, this should be given careful consideration. It must be remembered, however, that each representative has a duty to serve the people who have placed their trust in him. The statute of the Constitution stipulating that each representative is accountable to the people who elected him stresses this point.

The people of Ethiopia and the executive bodies that will participate in the electoral process must give priority to the electoral process and must make their individual contribution to achieve successful results. The role of the executive organs is to organize the people to facilitate the electoral process and create suitable conditions.

The electorate's active participation is decisive in bringing about the successful results envisaged. This is why we have formulated the method of establishing the Assembly through the direct participation of the people through voting. The Assembly's confidence in the activities its embarks upon in all spheres, and its strength, will emanate from the direct confidence vested in it by the people. Hence, the people must spare no efforts in nominating and vetting candidates in order to select and elect those who will excel. Accordingly, the representatives in whom the people place their trust will have a high degree of self-confidence and the Assembly will have adequate power to conduct the activities it embarks upon in the execution of its responsibilities. The outcome of all this will be the extensive participation of the people in practical activities through their representatives, which will create conditions in which they will exercise their own administration.

Dear members of the commission, as has been clearly stipulated in our Constitution and in the decree establishing this commission, any Ethiopian who has not been legally stripped of his right to vote or be elected, who does not have a mental disorder, and who has reached the age of 21, has the right to be elected, while anyone who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote. This right is one of the basic political rights that the people of Ethiopia have won through their struggle. According to this Constitutional right, differences in nationality, gender, religion, the nature of work, and social conditions will not prevent anyone from taking part in the elections. In addition, no differentiation whatsoever will be made between nationalities.

The sole criterion we will employ during these and future elections will be a willingness and ability to serve the people. In these and future elections, citizens who are taking part honestly will not be required to fulfill special economic and social obligations, while all election expenses will be met by the state.

As I tried to point out earlier, the National Assembly of the PDRE is an organ in which the working people will have direct ownership of power and will ensure their supremacy by electing representatives from among themselves. Therefore, being a representative of the people cannot be a tool for furthering individual interests or consolidating individual power. In fact, it will place major and serious responsibilities on those elected. The benefits of becoming a representative are not material. The benefits are solely the spiritual satisfaction of being a vanguard activist in achieving the goals of the ongoing struggle for the prosperity and supremacy of the people, and to obtain the respect of future generations and history.

Clearly, it is not an easy task to identify those who put collective prosperity before individual interests, who are ready to accept fresh and more serious responsibilities in addition to their normal work, and who are ready to strive constantly to improve their suitability to occupy this honorable post.

In this respect, major responsibilities have been placed, in particular, on those who have been given Constitutional rights to nominate candidates, and on those organs stipulated in the decree establishing this commission. When submitting candidates, they must appreciate the responsibilities of the representatives, and must therefore strive hard and take care to achieve the desired results in terms of quality.

According to our Constitution and the decree establishing the commission, the responsibility of nominating candidates is placed on organizations that have been created by our revolution to mobilize the people of Ethiopia in all spheres, that have direct contact with the people, that lead and coordinate the people's struggle, and that carry out the struggle in the interests of the people on various fronts. As these organizations stand for the victory of the revolution and struggle to ensure equality and prosperity among the working people, the candidates they present, as well as the subsequent electoral process, will result in the formation of a National Assembly with capable representatives of high quality. It should not be forgotten that according to the plan formulated to facilitate the electoral process, it is the responsibility of these organizations to create a suitable forum through which the decisive role of the electorate can be implemented in an organized manner.

The highest organ in which the people own the power and are supreme cannot be established through representatives alone. The main participants in the nominating and vetting of candidates are the people, whose role is not confined to voting for the candidates submitted.

[Words indistinct] as has been clearly (?stipulated in the decree), and as detailed in the [word indistinct] directives, although responsibility for submitting candidates has been entrusted to a limited number of bodies, to facilitate the process the responsibility for ensuring the quality and capability of representatives is not (?limited) to these organs. According to the decree, bodies given the right to submit candidates will do so by consulting with the people and by (?involving the people in preparations).

The right of a citizen to object after the candidates have been presented, or to present his opposition to the relevant organ and receive a reply, has been provided for in the decree. This acknowledges the fact that ensuring a genuine consensus between nominating organs and the people they represent on the quality and capability of candidates submitted is very important. The process of submitting candidates will not be as restricted as it might appear. The organs given the right to submit candidates can now conduct the evaluation process through joint forums to be established at various levels. This commission will be the final form of this process and will approve the candidates for whom the people will vote.

Various tasks must be carried out to ensure the quality and capability of members of the National Assembly following the elections and after the establishment of the Republic. However, it is clear that placing stress from the outset on the vetting of candidates and on the success of the elections in general will lay a secure foundation for the success of our future efforts. Hence, we must carefully utilize administrative methods to guarantee favorable results at this level. The participation of the people, which is growing steadily with the progress of the revolution, will manifest itself in an increasingly organized manner in the nomination of candidates and in the electoral process.

In this way, the people can without doubt affirm that they own the organs of power. The process will be another historic event in which the democratic rights of the people will be given a high profile.

Dear members of the Electoral Commission for the National Assembly: According to our Constitution, the election of members to the National Assembly, which is to be carried out in the near future by the people of Ethiopia through the coordination and under the guidance of this commission, is the last of the tasks essential to the establishment of the republic. However, the benefits of the successful implementation of this task should be seen as going beyond the completion of preparations.

The establishment of the Assembly is the result of the struggle that has been waged for the creation of the organs of the new political system. It is an historic event which marks the achievement of the complete implementation of our Constitution, which was prepared through the direct participation of the people of Ethiopia, and affirmed through their overwhelming voice. In addition, according to the stipulations of our Constitution, the establishment of the Assembly will enable the creation of various state organs that will all contribute to the success of efforts being made in all spheres for the development of our country and the prosperity of our people, or will assist those already established to operate in a new manner. This period is an historic period in which the PMAC's pledge to hand over power to the people will be implemented in practical terms. The PMAC has been preparing these conditions, which will be an additional lesson to all those who are against our unity and revolution, who conspired to portray the revolutionary government as one whose interests were contrary to those of the people, if they are willing to learn.

The fact that the goals of the revolution and people have so far been pursued by the PMAC, and that favorable conditions have been created which have enabled progress toward this goal through the direct consolidation of power by the people, based on a strong social foundation, through the direct participation of the people, and the great historic reality which we are about to witness, is adequate proof of this. Actions speak louder than words, so none of the steps taken by the PMAC since it declared its support for the people at the outset have deviated in any way from the pledge it made.

Under our guidance, on the one hand, conditions have been created for the establishment of organs of the political system and for the achievement of a republic modeled on social ownership. On the other hand, through the efforts it has made to intensify these developments, the working people have been able to reach the point where they are in a position to become direct owners of power. We are sincerely confident that the PMAC will be allotted a position of respect in history for honoring its pledge; for example, when the working people will in the near future be elevated to a position where they will directly consolidate power. We are obliged to give particular importance to the historic events we have embarked upon during this period due to the reasons I have briefly given and to various factors related to them.

The fact that we are creating conditions whereby the struggle we have embarked upon to construct a socialist system, and to make Ethiopia a country in which the people live in equality and social prosperity, can be motivated by a much stronger force — that is, by the people themselves — deserves recognition.

It is our sincere belief that the people of Ethiopia, assisted by the experience of the democratic process they have gained from the various tasks they have performed so far, will make unreserved efforts to successfully shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them by this commission. I would like to say at this juncture that the WPE and the revolutionary government will not hesitate to assist you in ensuring the success of the commission's work. I thank you sincerely. [applause]

PMAC on People's Participation in Elections

EA232029 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1723 GMT 22 Apr 87

[PMAC statement issued 22 April entitled: "The Direct Ownership of Power by the Working People Will Be Achieved Through Their Direct Participation"]

[Text] Through victories achieved in various sectors in the course of our revolution, a firm base has been established for the realization of people's power. Political situations in which the supremacy of the working people was manifested played a decisive role in giving depth and strength to this base. For this reason the people's supremacy, which has been enriched by fruitful results in struggles waged in various directions, has been able to reach a stage where direct state power will be the property of the workers.

Without being limited to abolishing the old system, necessary attention has been given to building the new, and necessary steps have been taken in various directions over the past years. Through these steps and through victories achieved at various stages, various fora were created for popular participation: It has also been possible to create favorable conditions for its continuous progress. In addition, through educational work to develop political awareness in the working people — which includes efforts to eradicate illiteracy, instill a scientific and progressive outlook in the people, and expand modern education, in general through multi-stage activities to create the new man necessary to build the new system — participation of the working people has shown progress in its content and benefit.

It has thus been possible to reach the objective and psychological situation needed in order for the working people to realize direct ownership of state power. This indicates that our revolution, which is advancing reliably toward its goal under the correct leadership of our party, has created a force which will enable it to victoriously overcome the difficult and complex problems ahead of it, and that a situation has been created for its continued strengthening.

Therefore, the PMAC, which has been making unreserved efforts as the custodian of people's power, has reached the last chapter of its historic mission. Maintaining its promise and providing political leadership, the Dergue is competently accomplishing its mission. Through successive steps it has taken to accomplish its historic obligation, the direct ownership of power by the working people has passed the stage of being a goal and is near to reality. This will be a great historical achievement which will bring satisfaction not only to the Dergue but to all revolutionaries. Since we remember revolutionaries who have fallen in various stages of the struggle for the people's supremacy, which will make these revolutionaries eternal, our satisfaction will be still greater. It will encourage us to raise the banner for which a great many fighters and workers have fallen, and to march forward with greater determination.

As can be seen from any standpoint, the creation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] is the result of the working people's victory. Its establishment is near through the people's participation, in which the development of political culture has been registered more than at any other time. In the process of preparing and later approving the Constitution by which the PDRE will be formed and governed, the democratic right of the working people to determine their own destiny has been reflected at the highest level. Democratic work observed during this process and the unparalleled people's participation which resulted from it, clearly indicate that the confidence our party and the revolutionary government enjoy with the broad masses is correct. It confirms that the people voluntarily support the implementation of the Constitution, which was approved by referendum and has become a legal document.

As the Constitution is based on the achievements of our revolution thus far, and taking into consideration future objectives, there are a great many tasks to be accomplished in order to implement it. [Words indistinct] directly or indirectly there is no legal aspect not covered by this [word indistinct]. Therefore, in the people's democratic government that will be established, existing parties that are in favor of popular participation will be strengthened and their role increased. It is also inevitable that new fora for popular participation will be created. Moreover, there will be organs of power which will be formed through the direct participation of the people. It is also through these that direct ownership of state power by the working people will be manifested.

As is clearly indicated in the Constitution, organs of power at various levels will be established through elections. This is based on the supremacy of the working people and their being the source of power. The first elections will be to the National Assembly, which is the highest body of power. Since all necessary preparations for this have been completed, practical activities will be started soon. The executive force necessary to implement the basic legal document, which has been drafted through popular participation, cannot be organized without popular participation. Therefore, the National Assembly elections must pass through various processes demanding active participation by the people.

The principal and decisive stage in participation is the nomination by the working people of candidates who correctly understand their desires and feelings, who win their confidence as individuals, who can mobilize the electorate, and who understand plans for a better life. The working people have primary responsibility for nominating capable and genuine representatives of the people.

The strength and quality of the government to be established will be decided by the abilities of its members. Because of this there is one matter which requires special attention. The spirit of responsibility and control shown by the working people during the prepartion and approval of the Constitution should now be reflected on a higher level. The working people should exercise their democratic rights, which enable them to choose their representatives and which they consolidated through their struggle, correctly and in complete freedom. Though the election of the National Assembly is a task that will only take a short time, the permanent relationship (?that will exist) between the Assembly and the working people will [words indistinct]. That is why high regard is being given to participation by the people.

The election process is not just a question of the people voting for this or that individual. The decisive stages in the election are the nomination and screening of nominees. Active participation by the people is required. The working people must be capable of making correct use of state power to ensure the success of their struggle, which seeks to consolidate a better way of life. This will be decided by the quality of their representatives, who will be exercising the people's power in the people's name. Therefore, the working people are expected to nominate representatives who are knowledgeable, experienced in the struggle, and dedicated to the aspirations of the people. These nominees must have an extensive knowledge of the people. They must be capable of mobilizing the people toward greater achievements.

The sole guarantee for members of the National Assembly in their efforts to shoulder their responsibilities is the support of the people. Therefore, the working people must be vigilant during the nomination and screening of nominees to ensure that they are giving their support and confidence to people who are worthy of it. Active participation by the people is crucial in electing representatives who are responsible and who will serve the people with dedication. It is crucial to the success of the election process in general.

We will establish the PDRE.

Foreign Minister Departs for East Europe Tour

EA271622 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation led by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and minister of foreign affairs, left for the GDR today on the first leg of a 3-nation visit. In a predeparture statement at Bole International Airport, Comrade Berhanu revealed that the delegation is going on a working visit to the GDR, the People's Republic of Hungary, and the Polish People's Republic in response to an invitation from the Foreign Ministries of the three countries. He said that the delegation will hold talks with officials of the respective countries on the current state of agreements that revolutionary Ethiopia has with these countries. Comrade Berhanu added that they will also exchange views on expanding, strengthening, and continuing this collaboration. He said that cooperation agreements will be signed between Ethiopia and the Foreign Ministries of the respective countries.

The delegation was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Hailu Yemanu, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo.

GDR Party Delegation Arrives for Visit

EA242354 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] An SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] delegation led by Comrade Horst Dohlus, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, arrived in Addis Ababa today for a working tour of Ethiopia. The delegation led by Comrade Dohlus was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Legese Asfaw, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee. This evening the delegation held discussions with Comrade Legese Asfaw at the WPE Central Committee office. Comrade Legese briefed the delegation on the objective reality in Ethiopia and current major activities in the country.

Earlier, on arrival at Bole International Airport, Comrade Dohlus made a statement. The *Ethiopian News Agency* has sent us a report. Here is Abiyot Tefera:

[Tefera] Comrade Dohlus said that the delegation's tour of Ethiopia will further strengthen the strong relations and comradely cooperation between the two parties, governments, and peoples. He added that this relationship is encouraged by the exchange of visits by the heads of state of the two countries and other delegations. Comrade Horst said the trip would enable the delegation to gain information and to see the tension being created by U.S. imperialism. This will strengthen their anti-imperialist stand. Comrade Dohlus noted that the SED, government, and people of the GDR are following the Ethiopian revolution closely. They have high regard for the recent Constitution approved by referendum, and view it as a result of the struggle waged by the WPE and the Ethiopian people.

He said that during its stay in the country, the delegation would be able to see how the resolutions passed during the WPE founding congress are being put into practice. In general, their trip will have satisfactory results, Comrade Dohlus noted. He added that the SED, government, and people of the GDR have great love and goodwill for the WPE, the broad masses of Ethiopia, and the revolutionary government.

Tours Rehabilitation Center

EA272321 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] delegation led by Comrade Horst Dohlus, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, paid a visit today to the Tana [word indistinct] project of the Pawe rehabilitation center. The delegation, which was accompanied by Comrade Legese Asfaw, Politburo member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, visited the children's orphanage at Village 12, the (?cultural) hall, the [word indistinct] and settler's homes.

In addition, they toured District One's WPE committee offices, the Pawe Hospital in Village Seven, the kindergarten in Village Five, the handicraft training center, and a settler's home. The delegation also saw children's toys being made for kindergartens in Village Five by the settler's handicraft organizations. Finally, they watched a parade by the people's militia of the locality, (?which they) presented with the banner of the SED Central Committee.

After presenting the flag, Comrade Horst Dohlus pointed out that there were close friendly ties between revolutionary Ethiopia and the GDR. For his part, Comrade Legese Asfaw said that the people, party, and Government of the GDR had aligned themselves with Ethiopia since the inception of our revolution. He expressed his happiness at the chance for Comrade Dohlus' delegation to be at the rehabilitation site and see the new lives of the settlers.

KENYA

Moi Discusses Trade With Visiting Iranians

EA271722 Nairobi KNA in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Nairobi, 27 Apr — President Daniel arap Moi at State House, Nairobi, today conferred with top officials of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by the special advisor to the minister, Mr Mahmud Va'ezi.

President Moi and the officials discussed ways of enhancing co-operation between Kenya and Iran for the mutual benefit of the two peoples. They explored areas and possibilities for increased trade between the two countries.

Mr Va'ezi brought to President Moi greetings and best wishes from Iranian President Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

The Iranian delegation included the head of economic department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mohammad Taheri, and the ambassador of Iran in Kenya, Mr Mohammad Sharif Mahdavi.

TANZANIA

Communique Issued on Rwandan President's Visit

EA272148 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Tanzania and Rwanda have condemned the aggression of the South African racist regime against the Frontline States. A joint communique issued at the end of a 4-day visit to the country by President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda expressed concern over Pretoria's acts of economic blackmail, destabilization, intimidation, and unprovoked military attacks against the Frontline States.

The communique, signed by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and President Habyarimana, says the behavior of the Pretoria regime has become a threat to peace and security in the entire southern African region. The two presidents called upon the international community to impose comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime in order to bring about a peaceful change in South Africa.

The two presidents also called on the international community to assist African countries in their efforts to overcome the economic crisis which hinders their social and economic (?progress). President Mwinyi and President Habyarimana expressed concern over the persistent international economic crisis whose impact continues to aggravate the economic problems facing Third World countries, particularly African countries.

While in the country, President Habyarimana was the guest of honor at the climax of the celebrations marking the 23d anniversary of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. He also visited Zanzibar and Isaka in Shinyanga region where he laid the foundation stone for his country's transit goods warehouse. President Juvenal Habyarimana left for home this afternoon.

Cooperation Accord Signed With USSR Journalists

EA271924 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The Tanzania Journalists Association [TAJA] and the Soviet Union of Journalists have signed a cooperation agreement. According to a statement issued following a visit to Tanzania by a delegation from the USSR Union of Journalists, the two organizations will exchange news and various reports on their activities.

The two organizations also agreed on an annual exchange program under which each group will send two members to the other country. TAJA, at the invitation of the USSR Union of Journalists, will send at least two members to the USSR for a 3-month training course. Soviet specialists will also be conducting short-term courses and seminars in Tanzania at the invitation of TAJA. The 2-man USSR Union of Journalists delegation will leave the country tomorrow.

UGANDA

PRC's Gu Mu, Delegation Arrive on Visit

EA242343 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A high-powered 16-man Chinese delegation, led by a former prime minister and now state councillor in the Chinese Government, Mr Gu Mu, has arrived in Uganda for a 3-day official visit.

The delegation was met on arrival at Entebbe International Airport by the prime minister, Dr Samson Kisekka; the Chinese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Jin Boxiong; the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Omera Otuba; and members of the Chinese community in Uganda.

Mr Gu Mu told newsmen at the airport that his delegation has come to Uganda to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Uganda and China and to pave the way of promoting economic growth between the two countries. Commenting on the National Resistance Movement [NRM] administration, Gu Mu spoke highly of the current peace and security which is prevailing in Uganda. He attributed this to the present leadership of the country.

Prime Minister Hosts Dinner

EA252248 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Dr Samson Kisekka, has said that the NRM [National Resistance Movement] was inspired by the success and victories of the Chinese people when it took up arms against fascist leaders and dictators of past regimes in Uganda. Dr Kisekka was speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting 15-man Chinese delegation at the Uganda International Conference Center in Kampala.

The prime minister described as cordial the relations between Uganda and China. He said the visit of the most high-ranking Chinese delegation to Uganda since the NRM came to power signifies the fraternal and friendly ties between the two countries. Dr Kisekka said Uganda was pleased to receive the delegation when peace and security had been restored in the country after 25 years of political suffering and mismanagement. Dr Kisekka said Uganda appreciates all the assistance from China like the setting up of the (Kirima) rice scheme, Kampala ice plant, and the current development of (Doho) rice scheme. China has also assisted Uganda by sending doctors to work in various hospitals and has awarded scholarships to Ugandans to pursue various professional courses in China, plus cultural and economic assistance from the people of the PRC.

The leader of the delegation, state councillor Mr Gu Mu, said the NRM government under President Yoweri Museveni is commended for having brought civil wars in Uganda to an end and for restoring peace and security. He added that the Chinese Government appreciates Uganda's clear policy of nonalignment. He said China is behind Uganda in its efforts against racism, colonialism, and imperialism. He said like Uganda, China supports the people of southern Africa in their struggle against oppression by the minority. He said China will continue to support the people of southern Africa until they achieve their ultimate victory. [passage omitted]

Museveni Receives Delegation

EA272036 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The Chinese delegation has left for home after meeting President Yoweri Museveni at State House, Entebbe. The delegation which was headed by Vice Premier Gu Mu, signed an agreement for a $21,000,000 interest-free loan to Uganda during the visit. The money will be used to build a national stadium in Kampala and other projects submitted by the Uganda Government. The Chinese Government has also given $1.7 million to purchase equipment for Kibimba rice project and [word indistinct] in Kampala.

President Museveni affirmed that the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government intends to build an integrated economy with emphasis on agriculture. In this regard, the president said the Chinese Government could be of great help in the production of biogas, irrigation, and including Uganda's capacity to make spare parts for vehicles and other parts of machinery. He thanked the Chinese Government for the grant given and said that the people of Uganda can learn a lot from the Chinese in developing national resources.

In reply, Vice Premier Gu Mu said his government appreciates the NRM government's efforts to build an independent national economy. He further told President Museveni that China would like to strengthen the good relations existing between the people of the two countries. He said his government is ready to cooperate with Uganda in development.

The meeting was attended by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi.

Delegation Seen Off

EA271729 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] A 15-man Chinese delegation led by the vice premier and member of the State Council, Mr Gu Mu, has left for home after a 3-day visit to Uganda. They were seen off at Entebbe International Airport by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, and the Chinese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Jin Boxiong. [passage omitted]

CAR

Bokassa Trial Resumes, May Exceed Deadline
AB272114 Paris AFP in French 1711 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Bangui, 27 Apr (AFP) — The trial of former CAR Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa resumed its 69th sitting today after a 1-week adjournment due to the absence of the assessor to the president of the Bangui Criminal Court. This trial, which has lasted a considerable length of time and apparently no longer interests the people of the CAR themselves, may continue for some time to come, according to observers.

The attorney general, Faustin-Gabriel Ngbondou, does not hide his concern. "It is my fear," he said, "that the 15 May deadline cannot be met due to the reluctance of some banks that refuse to cooperate with the court." Today, the president of the court, Edouard Frank, who last week asked the parties involved to prepare their pleas and indictments, gave no indication as to how long the proceedings might go on.

The hearing on the management of the funds of state-owned firms continued today. A number of officials, most of whom had already testified, appeared on the stand again. The complete absence of records in the banks or in the companies was raised by the witnesses, who were unable to produce documents required by the court.

CHAD

Faya-Largeau Food Shortage, Relief Effort Viewed
AB271857 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] At the time of its liberation, Faya-Largeau was completely stripped of its resources by the Libyan invasion forces. Since the routing of the Libyans, there has been growing hope in the capital of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET] region. In yesterday's broadcast, we gave a general socioeconomic overview. Today, we are giving special emphasis to the critical food situation in Faya-Largeau. The government has rushed emergency supplies to the capital of the BET, and their distribution has kept pace with the rapid return of the town's residents, who had taken refuge in neighboring areas. However, in light of Faya-largeau's ever-increasing population, much more aid is required. (Bende Koutou), you have just been to the headquarters of BET. How is the food situation in Faya-Largeau?

[(Koutou)] Faya-Largeau, a town of plenty, has been sucked dry in the past 4 years by the Libyan occupation forces. Due to its location at a crossroads, Faya-Largeau was once a town with flourishing trade and prosperous agriculture. [passage omitted]

On their arrival, the occupation forces found a (?well-to-do) population, which had no need of outside assistance. This was unacceptable to Al-Qadhdhafi's men, who were in a hurry to impose their will. To crush the population's indifference to the Libyan presence, the occupation forces (?robbed) them. The first step was the confiscation, at checkpoints, of all food carried by travelers. [passage omitted]

The Libyan occupation forces then proceeded to systematically search all homes to steal their supplies of food. [passage omitted]

The Libyans entered every home in Faya, seizing the stock of certain merchants. At the end of the operation, they brutally (?assaulted) residents, after depriving the entire population of their food. Through their actions, the occupation forces sought to break the Chadians of Faya-Largeau through starvation. However, they had not counted on the pride and valor of the Chadian people. The patriots of Faya-Largeau preferred (?suffering) to allegiance to the Libyan colonialists.

These half-starved people, who are proud of having survived the horrors of the Libyan occupation, [words indistinct] are now eagerly waiting for the government and the international community to come to their rescue. At present, the local authorities are doing the best they can to supply the ravaged population. The emergency supplies that continue to arrive in Faya are distributed regularly. [passage omitted]

These operations represent relief and hope for the martyred people of Faya-Largeau, who are understandably waiting for the end of their suffering and the advent of a new order. (?The relief operations) must be continued, however, for supplies to reach other families in the oasis.

GABON

Iranian Ambassador Meets With Prime Minister
NC240835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with the prime minister of Gabon yesterday and presented a written message from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. During the meeting, the Gabonese prime minister expressed his gratitude for the good relations which the Islamic Republic of Iran has maintained with the Republic of Gabon despite the problems Iran faces from the war.

BENIN

Amnesty International on Political Detainees

AB241649 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 24 Apr 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Yesterday, Amnesty International published a report expressing grave concern over human rights' violations in Benin. It claimed that a lot of political detainees were being held and that the conditions of their imprisonment were pretty horrific. Elizabeth Ohene asked Mark Doyle of the Amnesty how many prisoners they were talking about.

[Begin recording][Doyle] We have managed to identify 88 political prisoners in detention right now. There were over 100 but a number were released last September. As of the moment we think there are at least 88 political prisoners in Benin.

[Ohene] What kind of things has the government accused them of?

[Doyle] None of them have faced legal procedures as such, but we think that they are suspected of having been involved in student unrest or are suspected of being members of the Communist Party of Dahomey, as Benin was formerly called.

[Ohene] Yes, but the ruling party in Benin is a Marxist-Leninist party, is it not? One would think that the Communist Party would be allies.

[Doyle] One would, yes.

[Ohene] But they are not, obviously.

[Doyle] Apparently not, because they are arresting large numbers of people who are suspected of being members of the Communist Party.

[Ohene] Do you have any information at all about what kind of conditions the prisoners are in?

[Doyle] The conditions that they are held in are very harsh. The vast majority of the prisoners are held in prisons either in Parakou in central Benin or in Sangbanga in the remote northeastern corner of Benin. Conditions there are extremely hot. The food is inadequate. Visits from family are extremely rare, if allowed at all, and during the early months of their detention a number of prisoners were tortured.

[Ohene] What kind of torture?

[Doyle] Prisoners were beaten to try and extract information about members of the Communist Party or about members who had been allegedly involved in student unrest. Some prisoners were subjected to a torture known as the rodeo, which involves crawling around on your hands and knees across broken glass or gravel.

[Ohene] Have you had anybody in Benin trying to visit these prisoners?

[Doyle] We haven't. Amnesty International has been appealing to the Government of Benin to try to release these prisoners for the last 2 years. We have not had a single response. [end recording]

PRC Friendship Group Delegation Begins Visit

AB262211 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The friendly relations between our country and the People's Republic of China are in top form. Since this morning, a delegation from the Chinese Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries has been visiting us. The delegation was met at Cotonou International Airport by Comrade (Atogbor Etevi Vignor), member of the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Welcoming Organization Committee. In the VIP lounge of the airport, Mr (Zhang Zhijie), leader of the Chinese delegation, spoke to Radio Benin's News Service on the goal of his trip.

[Begin (Zhang) recording in Chinese fading into French translation] Our visit to Benin is designed to strengthen the mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Beninese peoples. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We may note that the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries was founded over 30 years ago and collaborates with nearly 130 nations throughout the world.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Grants Audience to Chad's Goukouni

AB271358 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The president of the original GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], who arrived in Ouagadougou yesterday afternoon, was granted an audience this morning by Thomas Sankara, the Burkinabe head of state. This audience, which lasted from 1000-1130, is the first round of talks between the two men. It is believed that the next set of discussions will center on recent developments in Chad and Goukouni's stand on national reconciliation there. [passage omitted]

Acheikh ibn Oumar Expected

AB271723 Paris AFP in French 1650 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Ouagadougou, 27 Apr (AFP) — Official sources in the Bukinabe capital said this afternoon that the president of the New GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], Acheikh ibn Oumar, is expected to arrive in Ouagadougou in the next few hours. Goukouni Oueddei, former leader of that organization opposed to the Ndjamena regime, has been there since yesterday.

Goukouni Oueddei has been received in audience by Burkinabe President Captain Thomas Sankara. He is expected to hold further talks with the Burkinabe head of state. The latter, observers note, sent his foreign minister to Tripoli over the weekend to deliver a personal message to Libyan President [as received] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

At the moment, it is not known whether the two "brothers and enemies" of the GUNT will meet in Ouagadougou where, observers believe, a major diplomatic maneuver, which could lead to reconciliation between the two GUNT leaders, is taking place.

This shuttle comes on the eve of the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee, which is expected to discuss the problem of national reconciliation in Chad on 28 and 29 April.

Sankara Opens PRC-Sponsored Sports Facility

AB261038 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] A new multipurpose sports complex has been opened in Ouagadougou. The 2,000-square-meter complex, built at a cost of roughly 8.5 million CFA francs, was inaugurated yesterday afternoon in the presence of Comrade Captain Thomas Sankara, president of Bukina Faso. The PRC and other benefactors contributed to its construction. It includes courts for basketball, handball, and volleyball.

GHANA

Chinese Friendship Group Ends Visit, Departs

AB241909 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[From the newsreel]

[Text] A delegation from the Chinese Association for International Understanding today flew back home after a week's visit to Ghana. While in the country, the delegates met a cross-section of Ghanaians including government officials, scholars, cadres, and chiefs. Before their departure, the leader of the 5-member team, Mr He Xiquan, briefed newsmen about their visit. Airport correspondent Steven Quay has come through with this report:

[Begin recording] Mr He Xiquan described their visit as very significant in the sense that they have seen by themselves the real economic situation in the country. He said in trying to know the true economic situation, the delegation met many distinguished personalities, paramount chiefs, scholar cadres, as well as leaders of revolutionary organs. They also toured some industrial establishments to see some of the items being produced. In his view, the country has a bright future and this can be achieved rapidly if the people make self-reliance and hard work their watchword. Mr He Xiquan said the government has embarked on an appropriate economic recovery which, he said, is in conformity with the task it has set itself. On cooperation with the association and the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], Mr He Xiquan noted that both revolutionary organs have reached an understanding to further exchange views and experiences. In this regard a CDR delegation is to visit China next month. The political counselor of the CDR's, who saw the delegation off, said there is the need to tap experiences of peoples who have undergone similar processes. He said the exchange of views during the visit will enable the CDR's to play an effective role in the forthcoming local council elections. Colonel Asase reiterated an earlier admonition of Mr He Xiquan that revolutions are not imported and that any revolution should be based on cultural and historical development. Col Asase hinted that the Chinese Association for International Understanding will soon make agricultural inputs and bicycles available to help in the community works of CDR's. [end recording]

Committee of Regional Satellite Body Formed

AB250755 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A 17-member national coordination committee of the Regional African Satellite Communication System, Rascom, was inaugurated in Accra today. The committee is to study, among other things, communication needs of various sectors of the economy.

It will visit isolated and industrial areas which will require communication facilities to support their operations. The director general of P and T [Posts and Telecommunications] Corporation, Colonel Kwesi Oppong, said Rascom, when completed, will enhance communications in Africa. He called on members to discharge their duties diligently, since this can promote the extension of telephone and television facilities to remote and isolated areas.

The acting deputy director general in charge of engineering, Mr J.K. Gyimah, is chairman of the committee.

GUINEA

Final Communique on Visit of Mali's Traore Issued

AB261624 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Final communique on visit of Malian Head of State General Moussa Traore to Guinea; issued in Conakry on 25 April — read by Modibo Keita, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency General Lansana Conte, CMRN chairman, head of state, and president of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the Republic of Mali, paid a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Guinea on 24 and 25 April 1987.

His Excellency President Moussa Traore and his important delegation were given a warm and brotherly reception by (?President Conte), the CMRN, and the Guinean Government, thus demonstrating the excellence of the long-standing relations between (?the two nations). [passage indistinct] Present at the working session on the Malian side were: His Excellency Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the UDPM Central Executive Bureau; His Excellency Gen (Sagna), senior general treasurer of the Central Executive Bureau; His Excellency Gen Sekou Ly, minister of national defense; His Excellency Modibo Keita, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; His Excellency Colonel Ouedrahamane Maiga, minister of territorial administration; His Excellency Mahamane Toure, the Malian ambassador to Guinea; Ngolo Traore, permanent under secretary in the president's office; Tidiani Cisse, (?diplomatic) adviser in the president's office; Tchonang Mathieu Kone, press attache in the president's office; Noumou Diakite, director general of the international cooperation division; and Theophile Sangare, first counselor at the Malian Embassy.

Guinea was represented by: His Excellency Major Kerfala Camara, minister and permanent secretary of the CMRN; His Excellency Maj Jean Traore, minister of foreign affairs and member of the CMRN Executive Committee; His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Sory Doumbouya, minister of national defense and a member of the CMRN Executive Committee; His Excellency Maj Alpha Oumar Diallo, minister of the interior and decentralization and member of the CMRN; His Excellency Zainou Abdin Sanoussi, minister of information and culture; His Excellency Edouard Benjamin, minister of planning and international cooperation; His Excellency Ousmane Sylla, minister of natural resources, energy, and environment; His Excellency Ibrahima Sory Diaby, secretary of state for security; and Maj (Henri Poula), secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic.

On bilateral relations, the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the quality of the ties between Mali and Guinea and pledged their political willingness to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation to satisfy the aspirations of their peoples. In this regard, the two leaders expressed the pressing need for their two governments to make their cooperation more concrete through their permanent joint commission. President Lansana Conte assured President Traore that Guinea is watching with great interest the Malian Government's efforts to develop Mali economically (?and socially). President Moussa Traore commended the work done by the CMRN under the leadership of Gen Lansana Conte to promote Guinea's economic and social development and strengthen national unity.

On subregional and regional questions, the two heads of state promised to help strengthen the Niger Basin Authority and ECOWAS.

On African matters, the two heads of state expressed concern over the continued existence of hotbeds of tension, which constitute a grave threat to peace, security, and the harmonious development of the African Continent. On Western Sahara, the two heads of state commended the efforts being made by the OAU and the UN secretary general to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

Turning to the situation in Chad, the two heads of state said they were willing to work with other African countries to restore a definitive peace that would guarantee national unity and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that brotherly country.

The prevailing situation in southern Africa also drew the attention of the two heads of state, who strongly condemned the apartheid policy of the Pretoria minority regime, and reiterated their total solidarity with, and support for, the Frontline States and the liberation movements of southern Africa. The two heads of state reaffirmed their backing for the Namibian people, who are resolutely struggling for their right to independence and freedom under the leadership of SWAPO, their only authentic representative. They called for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

On the Middle East, the two heads of state expressed their preoccupation with the deteriorating situation there. They renewed their firm support for the Palestinian people, who, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, have been courageously fighting against Zionism to recover their inalienable rights. The two heads of state also demanded Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and called for an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

The two heads of state hailed the recent meeting in Algiers of the PNC, and expressed satisfaction with the encouraging progress made in strengthening the movement's unity, the indispensable condition for victory over the Israeli occupation forces.

On the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the two heads of state once more appealed to the two parties to end their fratricidal conflict to strengthen the unity of Islamic brotherhood.

On the international economic situation, and given the heavy burden of debt on Third World countries and the fall in prices of raw materials, the two heads of state expressed their concern over the worsening of the continent's critical economic crisis. They agreed to strive for greater South-South cooperation and the creation of a new world economic order. In addition, they reasserted their support for the priority program of Africa's economic revival and reiterated their call for an international conference on Africa's foreign debt.

The two heads of state noted with satisfaction the identity of views on all question discussed, and expressed their pleasure with the outcome of their talks. They agreed to take concrete action in the field of cooperation to further strengthen the long-standing ties between the people of Mali and Guinea.

His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore conveyed to the people of Guinea, to the CMRN, to the government, and particularly to President Lansana Conte, the sincere thanks of the people of Mali, their party, the UDPM, and their government, for the warm, brotherly welcome and African hospitality accorded his delegation and himself. President Moussa Traore invited his brother and friend, Gen Lansana Conte, to pay an official visit to Mali. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date of the trip will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Conakry on 25 April 1987 by Gen Lansana Conte for the Republic of Guinea, and by Gen Moussa Traore for the Republic of Mali.

IVORY COAST

PDCI Secretaries General End Seminar 25 Apr

AB262044 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The seminar of the PDCI-RDA [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] party secretaries general ended today at the Party House in Yamoussoukro. The closing session was marked by several speeches. First of all, the prefects and the mayors who participated in the seminar reiterated to the party chairman their total devotion and unflinching support for the ideals of peace, tolerance, dialogue, and fraternity, thanks to which Ivory Coast has achieved indisputable progress. They also reaffirmed to the party chairman their constant readiness to lend their help to the secretaries general of the sections of the party in the pursuit of all activities which they embark upon in conformity with the party spirit.

The final resolution was then read by Mr Nkoumo Mobio, secretary general of Attiecoube.

[Begin recording] [Mobio] The secretaries general are pleased to note the strengthening of the dialogue between the party leadership and the grass roots. They particularly appreciate the action of the party's inspectors, and hope for more frequent visits by the party leadership. [passage omitted]

The secretaries general remind party militants of the need to be up to date in their annual contributions to qualify for PCDI membership. They are proposing to the party leadership that for the next elections, the membership contribution cards for the past 5 years be required.

The secretaries general reaffirm their unfailing commitment to the ideals of our great party and its leader, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. They hope the head of state will continue his visits to the regions to fulfill the burning desire of all the militants to receive him and express their profound gratitude to him. [prolonged applause] [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

The last speaker was the minister of industry, Mr Bernard Ehui Koutouan, member of the Executive Committee of the Political Bureau of the PDCI-RDA. Minister Ehui Koutouan said he was pleased with the atmosphere and ideas proposed by the secretaries general during the seminar, a sign that the PDCI-RDA is in good health.

[Begin recording] [Koutouan] [passage omitted] Comrade militants, it is also relevant to emphasize the obvious fact of which we are all aware, and which I want to reaffirm after Comrade Camille Alliali: This is the priority of the party over everything else in Ivory Coast, and to repeat that this priority entails a direct causal link, that is, everything begins with the PDCI-RDA and everything must end in its strengthening. This truth is self-evident. It is in the very life we live. It is felt as a categorical imperative. This is even more true considering that nowhere in the world can one see a government, a national assembly, a municipal council, which does not proceed from any political party. [applause]

In our country, the PDCI-RDA begot Ivory Coast, and the state created the organic framework instituting the executive, legislative, and judicial powers. The democratic openness that prevails in the choice of officials — an openness which, moreover, is a decision of the party — should not in any case result in the emergence of the destroyers of the party within its own structures. We must, therefore, all together, bear the implications of this imperative, which faces all of us who are elected officials, that is, secretaries general, parliamentarians, mayors, and administrative officials, prefects and subprefects. The party is, and remains, the only crucible where all our efforts must be joined if we hope to overcome the difficulties facing the nation.

Finally, it is important to highlight the fact that the primacy of the party does not only mean precedence or simple vanity, but means the ultimate goal, the guide of our actions, as it is through the party, and in relation to the party, that our actions derive meaning and value. Whatever the level and personal aptitudes of the secretary general, he still remains the first political official of his constituency, the party's representative. As such, he deserves the respect and consideration of all. [passage omitted] [end recording]

NIGERIA

Health Minister Reports 3 Deaths From AIDS

AB251826 Dakar PANA in English 1220 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Lagos, 25 April (NAN/PANA) — Three people have died of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Nigeria, Nigerian Health Minister Dlikoye Ransone-Kuti announced Thursday [23 April] in Lagos.

A special report by the minister on "AIDS in Nigeria," said that a total of 11 samples yielded positive results, giving a prevalence rate of 1.1 percent.

"Results from five of the 11 patients who showed symptoms and signs which resembled those of AIDS or AIDS-related complex were positive," the minister said, adding that there were five patients with AIDS or AIDS-related symptoms presently in the country out of which three had died.

The minister's statement was the first official announcement on AIDS in the country.

"Six other positive results were from prostitutes," he said.

To date, results of 10,139 blood samples tested nationwide had been analysed, Ransone-Kuti said, adding that these samples were collected from blood donors and health volunteers.

Other sources of blood samples included 780 prostitutes, 300 clients of the prostitutes, and patients from sexually transmitted diseases (STD) clinics.

The minister said steps were being taken to contain the spread of the diseases.

These include advice on measures to ensure the health of prostitutes in the country, collaboration with the World Health Organisation, and equipping of AIDS diagnostic centres in the country.

The minister said people should avoid sexual relationship with strangers and prostitutes, especially those who co-habit with nationals of countries where AIDS was common.

He disclosed that prostitutes in the country would, from now, be required to undergo full medical examination, including AIDS (HIV) tests, every six months.

Rural 'Television Viewing Centers' To Be Set Up

AB242219 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Federal Government is to establish television viewing centers in 97,000 rural communities to acquaint dwellers with government programs. The minister of information and culture, Prince Tony Momoh, announced this in Makurdi yesterday. He appealed to cultural groups and development associations in the country to assist the Federal Government by providing more of such centers for the people. Prince Momoh also announced that his ministry would establish five new information centers abroad in its bid to ensure effective external publicity.

TOGO

Radio Comments on Independence Anniversary

AB271230 Lome Domestic Service in French
0615 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Bakuli Kumbo commentary]

[Text] Each year that slips past adds to the age of men, peoples, and nations, and whether the anniversary of the various dates in their history are appreciated or not depends on the events that marked them.

On the 27th anniversary of Togo's independence, which we celebrate today, we must confess that we have mixed feelings as to its significance. On one hand, we are happy to note that our country has been freed from the colonial yoke, while others continue to fight for the right to live in freedom. Togo won its independence under very difficult conditions, as the example of the Pia martyrs attests. Even today martyrs continue to fall while fighting for the sacred cause of liberation. On the other hand, when the event is seen from a different perspective, the Togolese tremble with horror while remembering the painful years that followed their independence.

It seems that few people understood what the word independence meant. Political leaders of the time, after monopolizing the country's property, evolved an efficient system that enabled them to perpetuate their dictatorial rule. They sowed the seeds of discord, hatred, and tribalism. The ravages caused by this political system are known to us all. Togolese killed their brothers, destroyed their property, beat them to death, and imprisoned them. Our independence had rather a bitter taste.

It was the Army, through its 13 January 1963 coup, that put an end to this nightmare. From that point the people understood that independence does not mean irresponsibility. It means renewed rigor and a high sense of our supreme national interests. Being free must not become an excuse for excesses, intolerance, and vendettas; otherwise one becomes the hostage of his own freedom.

For 20 years the Togolese people have been following the man of 13 January, that is, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. They have understood that to strengthen their freedom, they must be united, in solidarity with one another, and worthy. Each new day should be a day of new battles to consolidate this liberty. The surest way of doing so is to work, and to keep on working, as the country's independence will be useless without economic self-sufficiency.

In fact, true independence is the economic independence. That is why today, on the anniversary of our independence, we should look to the future and pledge to fight for economic independence, a battle that President Eyadema has always taught us is the only one worth fighting.

ANGOLA

Savimbi Says RSA 'Unhappy' With Benguela Plans

MB250947 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
25 Apr 87 p 6

[By Gwynne Roberts]

[Text] Jamba — South Africa has criticised Unita's recent offer to halt attacks on the Benguela Railway, and said it was not in its interest to see this vital Angolan land-link reopened.

The railway links the port of Lobito with the copper-producing areas of Zambia and Zimbabwe. For the past 12 years it has hardly functioned, because Unita guerrillas have destroyed numerous bridges, wrecked locomotives and blown up vital installations such as water towers.

Last month, Unita offered to allow the railway to be reopened, provided it was not used to ferry military supplies and personnel by the ruling MPLA party, which has major garrisons sited along the line.

A functioning Benguela Railway would play an important role in helping Southern African countries reduce their dependence on South Africa's transport system, and there have been rumours that the Americans have been putting pressure on Unita to adopt a conciliatory line towards the Frontline states on this particular issue.

In an interview near Jamba, Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi suggested to me that the South African Government was indeed nervous about his offer to allow the railway to be reactivated. He said officials from President Botha's office had visited him as soon as they learnt of it and told him they were "unhappy."

"They said it was not in their interest to make the Benguela Railway work," Dr Savimbi said. Apparently, the officials were told that a political solution to the Angolan civil war was in their long-term interest, but "they were not satisfied and not convinced," said Dr Savimbi.

Asked if the disagreement with Pretoria was serious enough to jeopardise further support, he said: "I don't know. We put our position...they were not happy, but they did not say they were going to do anything against us. People used to say Unita was nothing but a puppet of South Africa, and in this context we could never make such an offer. Though Unita gets support from South Africa, we are independent. If we find that this is what can serve the interests of Angolans, the interests of Unita, then we will do it."

He said Unita was aware that when the Benguela Railway was rehabilitated, Zambia, Zaire, and to a lesser extent Zimbabwe, would be less dependent on South Africa's ports and railways.

"I think that the South Africans will not be happy about that. We have to tell them that if this is a first step towards a general negotiation for peace in the area, then it should be done."

Dr Savimbi insisted that there had been no coercion from the United States to force Unita to reach an agreement with the MPLA over reopening of the railway. "The United States did not put on any pressure. They just passed the message to us."

The "message," according to Dr Savimbi, came originally from the Frontline states who asked President Mobutu of Zaire to ask the United States Government to sound out Unita on whether it would allow the railway to be rehabilitated.

Dr Savimbi said most of Unita's Central Committee opposed this initiative, but were eventually persuaded. "I put it this way. I said: 'Look, the administration is doing it to be in line with the sanctions voted by Congress. The Frontline states are doing it to be less dependent on South Africa. We should also do it in our own interests. We should also show our hand and show that we are prepared to be reasonable if they respond.'"

Although economically attractive to the Angolan Government at a time when it is calling for emergency food aid, the offer means major political and military problems.

Apart from restricting the railway to civilian use, Dr Savimbi would also like to see a demilitarised zone north and south of the line which would effectively eliminate several major MPLA garrisons from the battle zone.

— At the time of going to Press, no one from the South African Department of Foreign Affairs was available for comment.

BOTSWANA

Government Says RSA Raid on Zambia 'Malicious'

MB271154 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1110 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Botswana has added its voice to the growing international outrage at South Africa's weekend attack on neighboring Zambia, in which four Zambian nationals were killed. A statement released this morning by the Department of External Affairs in Gaborone condemned the raid as a malicious and unprovoked act of aggression. The statement said they reject totally the so-called reconnaissance mission concept which the South African Government advances for the intrusion of armed South African agents into other countries.

The Department of External Affairs says that the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in southern Africa by the Government of South Africa is inadmissible in international law and constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security.

The Government of Botswana, says the statement, appeals once again to South Africa to desist from the use of force and threat to live [words indistinct] the neighboring countries.

The statement had earlier acknowledged that the raid in Zambia came in the wake of South African threat to launch military attacks against Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana for alleged ANC infiltration from these countries to disrupt apartheid elections scheduled for May 6.

MADAGASCAR

Ratsiraka Denies Harbor Facilities to USSR

LD252310 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] I remind you that this evening you can hear the Malagasy president, Didier Ratsiraka, who will be the guest of the Third World Press Club. He will be answering questions from Alain Chalveron and several of our colleagues. Yesterday there was a preview of President Ratsiraka giving his point of view on thelatest problems in the south of the island, the brunt of which was borne by the Indo-Pakistani community.

As you might no doubt imagine, the Malagasy economy, foreign policy, and thus relations with France, will be discussed, as well as relations with the Soviet Union; in particular, the following clarifications over the facilities requested by the Kremlin:

[Begin Ratsiraka recording] The Soviet Union has asked for harbor facilities, but you know very well what I am like: I am a nationalist, and in fact not really so much a nationalist as a patriot. I am not going to drive the French out of their bases to put the Soviets there. They have been aware of this for a long time. In any case, Gorbachev did not ask for this. He is a man with whom I get along with very well. But I do not intend to give any base to the Soviets, nor to anyone else either. In my view, the bases in Madagascar must be Malagasy. The defense of Madagascar must be national. [end recording]

Ratsiraka on Civil Disturbances, French Aid

AB251600 Paris AFP in French 2109 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, 23 Apr (AFP) — Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka today blamed the disturbances shaking Madagascar for some months now on Malagasy political parties which "certainly receive assistance from foreign countries."

In an interview granted AFP following a private visit to Paris, where he met the leading French authorities, the 50-year-old head of state, in power since 1975, said he "did not see why calm should not return," adding: "In fact, it has already returned. But there are still some convulsions."

Rioting broke out in February and March in several cities of the country aimed at the Indian and Pakistani communities — the most active ones in the economic sector — leaving four dead, according to official sources. This heightened the tension caused by the ongoing student strike.

The Malagasy president accused the opposition of trying to exploit the "economic crisis which has affected everyone" and which affects the great island (as large as France and the Benelux countries together) as a result of the large drop in the prices of raw materials (such as coffee and clove), the unstable dollar, and the "imported inflation."

"For politicians to capitalize on this and attribute it to the regime's failures is part of the game. But for them to foment agitation in order to loot the Indian and Indo-Pakistani communities is too easy. Xenophobia is too easy," he said.

These politicians are "trying to join together against me by destabilizing the Indo-Pakistani community because the latter is easy prey," he went on to say. Are some opposition parties trying to sow confusion? "Yes, certainly with the assistance of foreign countries," Mr Ratsiraka responded, while declining to "cite names" of the accused parties. He added that he had "no evidence" of the implication of foreign states.

The head of state conceded that he had been caught unprepared by the first riots. "Now (the rioters) bitterly regret their actions. There are an additional 1,000 unemployed. This figure should be multiplied by five or six to include the families. It is a matter of the biter being bitten," he observed, recalling "the economic and commercial contributions" made by the Indo-Pakistani community which far outweigh "the manipulation, speculation, and financing of loans at exhorbitant interest rates" occasionally engaged in by some members of this community. President Ratsiraka stressed that it was "not true" that misery prevails in his country, as numerous testimonies recount, but just admitted that "like all other countries," his is also "confronted with difficulties."

He firmly denied the existence of "infant slaughterhouses" in his country as was stated last month by an official of the French humanitarian association "Enfance et Partage" [childhood and sharing] after a mission to Madagascar.

"It is totally false, completely senseless," he insisted. "These children were, in fact, saved. They are abandoned children who roam about the streets of the capital, sleep in the open air, and can die of cold and hunger. They were given shelter at a temporary center while awaiting transfer to a community village or an emigration center where they will be rehabilitated." What about their food? "We give them what we can; this center shelters only 260 children. International aid is most welcome," he added.

The president went on: "We shall overcome the crisis. It will be difficult, even more difficult than last year, but I have confidence in the future. I think we shall achieve food self-sufficiency by 1990, as I promised."

At a time when his authority is in the balance, the Malagasy president has discarded the hypothesis of early elections which "cannot be justified," and he stated that if he "still enjoyed the people's trust," he would be a candidate for a new term in 1989.

Finally, he stressed that he had "every reason to be satisfied with the results he had obtained in all the countries" he had just visited: France, the DPRK, and the Soviet Union, where he made only a short stopover.

As far as France is concerned, aid provided as a sectoral adjustment loan "will be appreciably increased this year, and even more next year," he pointed out. Mr Ratsiraka, who has just been received by President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and Minister of Cooperation Michel Aurillac, further said that "I was already sure of France's (political) support, whatever the circumstances may be. I did not, therefore, come looking for a confirmation, but for an increase in aid."

According to a ministry communique ministry, this loan (5.5 percent over 15 years, with a grace period of 5 years) geared to the country's balance of payments, will amount to Fr190 million in 1987 and will supplement the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) loans, which this year will increase by 40 percent, and would thus reach Fr45 million. According to a reliable French source, this has been "one of the greatest efforts" made by France for the benefit of African countries.

As for North Korea, which provides a substantial amount of aid, notably in the military field, President Ratsiraka stated that it was going to "increase its aid despite its own difficulties."

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Union Urges Workers To 'Cripple' Economy

MB271501 Dakar PANA in English 1452 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Luanda, 27 April (PANA) — The National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) has urged all Namibians workers to cripple the colonial economy in order to speed up the liberation of Namibia.

A NUNW press release issued in Luanda to mark the 17th anniversary of its foundation on 24 May, said that Namibians of all shades should unite in action by demanding equal pay for equal job, adding that "workers must demand for a living wage".

The release said, in this year of rededication to liberation, NUNW called upon those union and workers who still remained outside the national labour movement to join the workers struggle for liberation.

The SWAPO affiliated union called for working towards one union, one industry.

"All of us must be prepared to make sacrifices to ensure that we are united in our challenge to the capitalist bosses in each industry. The capitalist bosses in their desire to achieve maximum profits, stand united against the workers. We must face the challenge of working effectively towards one union — one industry", NUNW noted.

The union called on Namibian workers to demand the right to organise themselves, recognition of their unions, better payment and compensation. It also called on them to demand for the immediate implementation of UN Resolution 435 which calls for the independence of Namibia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Students, Police Clash During March

Arrests Follow Clash

MB271417 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Students at the University of Cape Town [UCT] have held a demonstration on the campus. The meeting was organized by the National Union of South African Students. The Bureau for Information reports about 300 students went on a march around campus and started throwing stones at police and private vehicles, but an SRC [Student Representative Council] official on the campus says the march had been peaceful at all times. The police then ordered the students to disperse and fired tearsmoke at them. The Bureau says police feared the tear gas would affect motorists on a nearby highway and used sjamboks [whips] to disperse the crowd. Later more stones were thrown, says the bureau, and police responded by firing birdshots into the crowd. A number of arrests have been made but the bureau has no information on the arrests. The students apparently have not yet dispersed and the bureau says the unrest incident is continuing.

March Protests Zambia Raid

MB271933 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1922 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 27, SAPA — Seven people had been arrested and three policemen slightly injured in the unrest on the University of Cape Town's [UCT] campus this afternoon, a Bureau for Information spokesman said this evening.

The spokesman, quoting police, told SAPA he had no knowledge of any other injuries during the violence which erupted after a student meeting to protest against the SADF raid into Zambia at the weekend.

About 300 students were involved in running battles with police, SABC radio news reported earlier. The Bureau confirmed teargas, sjamboks [whips] and birdshot were used by police to disperse the students.

A spokesman quoted by SABC said a number of private and police vehicles were also stoned.

The bureau said the decision to use birdshot was taken when it was feared that the teargas being used would drift onto the busy De Waal Drive below the campus. A helicopter was used by police and the university's sports centre was closed for some time.

Birdshot Injures Students

MB271957 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1952 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Cape Town April 27 SAPA — Eight to 10 university of Cape Town [UCT] students were injured by birdshot in today's disturbances at UCT, the principal and vice-chancellor, Dr Stuart Saunders, said tonight.

He did not know if any were serious, but said two — one shot in the face and the other in the stomach — had to receive medical treatment.

Dr Saunders said he had held meetings with senior staff and the SRC and further meetings would be held tomorrow.

"I am quite shocked by the throwing of missiles on the campus and shocked by the use of birdshot by the police.

"I abhor this violence and call on everybody to desist from violence.

"I regard this matter as extremely serious," he added.

Two Train Coaches Set Ablaze in Soweto

MB272014 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2013 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 27 SAPA — Two passenger train coaches were set alight in Soweto this evening, the Bureau for Information reported.

A spokesman told SAPA the first attack was about 6.30pm at Dube station. Damage to the coach was "extensive".

The second attack "a while later" was at New Canada station "but damage was minimal", the spokesman said.

No one was injured or arrested during the incidents.

The spokesman had no further immediate details.

Police are investigating.

Court Invalidates Detainee, Press Regulations

MB281010 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1001 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Durban, April 28, SAPA — Two emergency provisions prohibiting campaigns for the release of detainees as well as freedom of the press and freedom of speech were declared of no force and effect in the Supreme Court in Durban today, following an urgent application by four anti-apartheid organisations.

Mr Justice Leon ordered that the definition of a "subversive statement" in Proclamation R224 of the Public Safety Act, published on December 11 last year and a notice issued by the commissioner of the South African Police on April 10 be declared of no force and effect in law.

The Application was made by the Release Mandela Campaign, the organisation's national co-ordinator, Mr Aubrey Mokoena, the Detainees Parents Support Committee, the Durban Detainees Support Committee and the Black Sash against the state president, the South African Government, the minister of justice, the minister of law and order and the commissioner of police.

Leave to appeal was granted to the state, who were ordered to pay costs of the application. Counsel for the applicants, Mr Ismail Mahomed, SC [Senior counsel] did not oppose the application for leave to appeal.

Mr Justice Leon's order follows a full bench judgment handed down by Mr Justice Galgut and Mr Justice Page in the Natal Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg on Friday, setting aside some emergency regulations. The government has been granted leave to appeal against this judgment.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Leon, who earlier this month enrolled the matter as one of urgency in view of the forthcoming general election, said he believed the full bench to be correct in their findings.

He said the case involved an attack on the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech and that the issue in question were "matters of complexity." The April 10 notice expands on the definition of a "subversive statement" to include statements likely to encourage or incite participation in campaigns to secure the release of detainees.

Court Sentences Pietermaritzburg Trial Accused

MB271543 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Sentence has been passed down on nine accused in the Pietermaritzburg terrorism trial. Giving evidence in mitigation of sentence, defense leader Alan Magid included some of the discussions he had over the weekend with jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Rickard] Before the defense team started argument in mitigation, they withdrew an application begun last week for Nelson Mandela to be called as a witness in the case. Defense leader Alan Magid said Mandela told him yesterday that the ANC had tried nonviolent methods for may years and that he personally had been party to many letters to different South African prime ministers asking for talks and negotiations. Each time they had not even been given a reply. Mr Magid said Mandela told him that eventually he, Mandela, suggested that the ANC should form a military section, Umkhonto We Sizwe [Spear of the National], and that he personally supervised it.

Sibusiso Ndlanze, the accused who asked that Mandela be called to give evidence on his behalf was sentenced to 12 years, and his coaccused were given sentences ranging from 12 to 6 years.

ANC Radio: Worker Sabotage on Economy 'Imperative'

EA252301 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Commentary entitled "Let Us Confront the Enemy in the Battlefield"]

[Text] [Announcer] It is undoubtedly imperative for our workers to take the peoples war even up to the factory floor as our railway and other transport workers have already started by burning and derailing the trains these days. As the commissar of the peoples army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, Comrade Chris Hani, said, the workers of our country must also take part in the armed struggle and swell the combat ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe, because it is the workers who form the backbone of our revolutionary struggle as the most cohesive class in our society.

[Begin Hani recording] Workers, comrades, as the document on the strategy and tactics of our movement says, they form the backbone of our revolution. Why do we say they form the backbone of our revolution? They are the most cohesive class. They suffer together in the process of production in thousands. In certain cases in the past 2 years they have acquired, comrades, an incredible level — high level of political and class consciousness. What do I mean by this? Our workers are becoming militant. Our workers have realized the need to join the TU's. Not trade unions in the Western sense of just fighting for improvement of living and working conditions, but trade unions which are quickly realizing that the liberation of the black people is the key thing, that most of their problems will be solved as a result of political liberation, of social emancipation.

Now, these workers, as we correctly say, they are a decisive element in our struggle. It means they must be a decisive element in all forms of struggle, in the political struggle, in the trade union struggle, in the mass struggle as, well as in their (?own) struggle. Therefore they participate (?enough). There are many ways in which the workers must participate in the armed struggle. Firstly, Umkhonto we Sizwe has got a duty to train workers detachments and to equip these workers detachments so that they can act in the struggle in a number of ways. They can use explosives and mines to attack economic installations.

In this case, for instance, we know the role of the transnational corporations in our country. They are participating in the crime of exploiting our people. They are helping Botha to give the false impression of prosperity, which is not false in a way, because whites are enjoying prosperity. The transnational corporations are on the side of our oppressors, so the workers must participate in destroying those industries which belong to the transnational corporations.

Secondly, our workers are engaged literally every day in strikes against the capitalist class and the natural reaction of the capitalist class is to sack hundreds, sometimes even thousands of workers as we saw, for instance, in the great platinum strike in Rusten Burg, the workers who resist murder — this is a form of violence by the enemy and the workers have got to organize revolutionary violence in response to this form of violence. And the workers must act against such [word indistinct]. They must use revolutionary violence. They must plant mines and plant explosives, they must deal with those managers, directors, and captains of industry who display hostility to the workers' demands.

There is also another element to the workers struggle, to the workers' units in the factory: Workers must not think that without TNT, plastic explosives, without the limpet, without an AK that there are no other ways of breaking down the machinery. There is what we call cold demolition. Let me give a very short explantion. Workers now having worked in some of these factories are experts in the way these machineries, you know, are operated. They know that by removing just one screw, one nut, one bolt that machine will not move for instance for another 2 days. They know that by pouring sand or even sugar, for instance, that that machinery can have a lot of problems.

So the workers, because they know the technical way of operating these machines, must use in a very clever and ingenious manner, must make it impossible for these machines to operate. For instance, they could do this, for instance, as their own response to the call, for instance, for a strike on a particular day, for instance as a protest when the regime butchers our people. For instance, those workers which work in the armaments industry. They can do this in order to slow down the process of producing more bullets, the process of producing more weapons. There is, in other words, there is a variety of methods of ensuring that the productivity of South African industry is slowed down and this task belongs to the South African workers who are oppressed and exploited both by the ruling class and by the capitalist class. [end recording]

[Announcer] The commander of the peoples army, Comrade Jose Modise, also stresses the importance of our workers throwing in their lot in the peoples war and taking up arms to press forward their demands. He emphasizes that the workers must organize themselves into groups which should manufacture even traditional weapons to be used against the enemy. Furthermore, he goes on to give directives to the workers to also engage the enemy on the economic front by carrying out sabotage actions on the factory machines, destroying transport and even burning and derailing trains, as the workers of the transport and railway have already started doing.

[Begin Modise recording] Our people must also manufacture homemade (?guns) and petrol bombs with material that can be locally obtained. In addition, our people must also buy weapons where possible. After arming themselves in this manner, our people must begin to identify collaborators and enemy agents and deal with them. These collaborators who are serving in the community councils must be dealt with. Informers, policemen, special branch police and army personnel living and working among our people must be eliminated. The puppets in the tricameral parliament and the Bantustans must be destroyed. Our people must seek out the members of the paramilitary units that are the first line of the racist defense and deal with them.

On the mass political front, the actions of our people must complement the actions of those who are carrying on with armed struggle. By engaging the enemy on the economic front they must carry out sabotage actions against the industries and farms that are producing wealth for the racist regime.

Sabotage can be carried out in two ways. It can be carried out by using explosives — homemade and factory made — which can be obtained in South Africa. It can be carried out by sabotaging the plant machinery by way of tampering with some of the vital parts of the machines or by introducing foreign elements in the vital parts of these machines.

The masses must also engage in strike action that will paralyze the enemy's economy. Lines of communication must be sabotaged. For example, telephone lines and cables. Power stations and power lines must be sabotaged. Railway lines and bridges must be destroyed. Goods trains must be derailed. In all these activities Umkhonto we Sizwe must play a prominent role with the people because Umkhonto we Sizwe is an instrument of the people. It owes its existence to the people. Its life and strength is dependent on the people.

In a people's war, those among the oppressed who are employed in the enemy's administrative structures have a role to play alongside the people. They have access to weapons. They must pass these on to the people. They also have access to vital information. This must be given to the people. They are in a better position to undermine the enemy's efforts and in this way complement the people's efforts. By contributing to the national liberation struggle, they will be serving their own interests, because their interests are closely tied up with the people's interests. Their future is with the people and not with the enemy. In other words, all our people have a role to play in the struggle for national liberation. [end recording]

Five Former Labor MP's Form 'Democratic Alliance'

MB251841 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] A new political grouping which will be known as the Democratic Alliance under the chairmanship of Mr Charles Redcliffe has been formed at Uitenhage. The alliance was established after the breakaway from the Labor Party by five former members of parliament. Mr Redcliffe said the party will operate across the color line. He also announced that talks had already been held with the leader of the PFP, Mr Colin Eglin, and with white independents, who are contesting the House of Assembly election, with a view to bringing about a nonracial political grouping.

Malan Gives Conditions for End to Emergency

MB251029 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says five criteria will have to be met before the state of emergency can be lifted by the government. Speaking at an election meeting at Ladysmith in Natal, Gen Malan said these were: ensuring the safety of individuals and groups, greater involvement by black local authorities, increasing the percentage of blacks who own houses, reducing unemployment, and normalizing the situation in schools. As these goals could not be achieved overnight, it would not be possible to lift the state of emergency soon.

Tambo Denies Joe Slovo Forced to Resign

MB270805 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the African National Congress of South Africa, ANC, Comrade Oliver Tambo, has predicted that the conflict in that country will soon worsen. Speaking to reporters in Harare yesterday, Comrade Tambo expressed doubt on the ability of the United Nations to impose economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime. He also denied reports that the former commander of the ANC guerrilla movement, Comrade Joe Slovo, was forced to resign because of the organization wanted to maintain a noncommunist image. Comrade Tambo is scheduled to visit Sweden later this week before returning to Lusaka.

Sebina Says Slovo Departure 'Great Loss'

MB230913 Dakar PANA in English 0819 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Lusaka, 23 Apr (PANA) — African National Congress (ANC) spokesman Tom Sebina has described the resignation of the ANC's chief of military staff Joe Slovo, as a great loss to ANC.

Slovo who has served as chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) for eight years.

Sebina said the ANC and the Communist Party of South Africa held protracted discussions prior to the Slovo's release to enable him to take up the post of general secretary of the South African Communist Party.

He said after prolonged discussions between ANC and the Communit Party, the ANC released Slovo with great reluctance because [words indistinct] everybody.

Sebina said although he has relinquished his post at MK, he still remains on the National Executive committee member of the ANC, a member of Political Military Committee and senior members of MK.

The ANC spokesman said whatever the racist regime and its allies have been saying about Slovo's activities within the ANC, it has not influenced his departure.

He said although ANC has lost a good military leader, his departure will not change the on-going armed struggle becuase leaders may come and go, but ANC shall remain until victory.

Joe Slovo, 61, was elected chief of staff in 1978.

WEEKLY MAIL Carries 'Apartheid Barometer'

MB251129 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English
24-29 Apr 87 p 4

["Apartheid Barometer"]

[Text] COSTS OF APARTHEID

Apartheid cost South Africans R3.9-billion in 1986, according to Prof Geoff Everingham, professor of accounting at the University of Cape Town [UCT]. He said the figure of R3.9-billion was a "medium" estimate, based on research done by Professor Mike Savage, professor of sociology at UCT. Everingham said this figure referred only to the direct cost of apartheid in terms of the national budget. He said there were also indirect costs in terms of inefficiency created within the economy and the withdrawal of foreign capital from the country.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL SALARIES

A total of R40.448-million [number as published] was spent on the salaries, allowances and administration costs of the President's Council, according to figures released in parliament. In 1981, when the President's Council first came into existence, a total of R8.72-million was spent on salaries, allowances and administration costs.

DEFENCE WASTE

According to the auditor-general's report to parliament for the 1985/6 tax year a total of R58-million was written off through losses, fruitless expenditure, deficiencies and the cost of repairs, and a further R197,486 was listed as unauthorised expenditure.

The SA Defense Force was singled out by the auditor-general, Joep de Loor, as the main culprit in wasted expenditure. SADF units recorded a total of R30-million in stock surpluses while at the same time recording R20-million in deficiencies.

The auditor-general reported that the SADF had undertaken 2,007 internal reports which had resulted in 61 adverse gradings, 147 unsatisfactory, 951 satisfactory and 848 favourable gradings.

Last year the auditor-general reported that loss, damage and avoidable expense in the SADF cost more than R32-million in the 1984/5 financial year.

LIQUIDATIONS

A total of [figure illegible] companies were placed under compulsory liquidation and 4,959 people were declared bankrupt in 1986, the Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, said in parliament.

APPRENTICE FIGURES

The total number of indenture apprentices in South Africa fell from 14,500 in 1982 to 9,600 in 1986, according to Lawrence McCrystal, chairman of the SA Board of Trade and Industry.

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment among Indians increased by 35 percent in the 12 months to November 1986, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Services. In November 1985, 22,835 Indians were unemployed. A year later this figure had increased to 30,824 out of an economically active population of 307,228. Of those Indians unemployed, 35.9 percent were aged 30 or over, compared with a figure of 35.2 percent in November 1985.

BLACK MANAGERS

Less than four percent of all managers and administrators in South Africa are black, according to the latest official population analysis. Out of a total of 256,000 managers and administrators, 10,802 are black. More than 60 percent of all economically active South Africans are black. The ratio of black managers to workers is about 1 to 820.

NAMIBIAN WAR INCIDENTS

The number of anti-personnel mine blasts in Namibia rose from 20 in 1983 to 561 in 1986, and between January and March this year there have already been 331 such attacks, according to figures released by the South-west Africa Territorial Force (SWATF). Figures for anti-mine vehicle attacks were 77 in 1984, 147 in 1985, 328 in 1986 and 187 in the first three months of 1987.

According to SWATF figures, Plan [People's Liberation Army of Namibia], the armed wing of the South-west Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), has lost 10,313 people since 1978. Between January and March this year, 402 Swapo guerrillas were killed, SWATF said.

Between 1977 and 1986 Plan initiated 7,208 incidents, 476 of them last year. The security forces initiated 2,208 armed contacts between 1980 and March 1987, while Plan initiated 584 armed contacts in the same period, according to SWATF. A total of 1,326 civilians were killed in the war between 1978 and 1986, 119 of them last year, according to SWATF.

STOLEN POLICE AND SADF GUNS

According to figures released in parliament by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, 509 police guns were lost or stolen in the 12 months prior to August 1986. Of the 367 lost guns 235 were pistols, 81 revolvers and 51 rifles. Of the 142 stolen guns 111 were pistols, 24 revolvers and seven rifles. A total of 77 out of the 509 lost or stolen guns were recovered.

The Minister of Defence refused to answer questions on lost or stolen SADF guns. He said it was not in the nation's interest because it was ANC policy to obtain as many weapons as possible from the SADF. However, *Bravo* magazine, the in-house magazine from Natal Command, said in an article that they lost 1.5 rifles per day.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Hlabeng Sam Matlole, 63, former Vaal Civic Association (VCA) leader, was detained in February 1985 and is still being held as one of the Delmas Treason Trialists.

Matlole, the oldest of the Delmas trialists, was born in the North Eastern Transvaal and grew up in the Lydenburg district, where he started work after a few years of schooling. In 1945 he moved to Johannesburg and worked as a domestic servant. His first brush with the law came in 1954 when he was arrested for a pass offence. In 1956 he moved to Evaton and in 1969 to Sebokeng.

Matlole played a key role in the formation of the VCA in 1983 and was elected treasurer of the Zone Seven Area Committee. In 1984 he was active in the UDF's Million Signature Campaign. He was detained in February 1985 and has now spent nearly 27 months in detention and police custody without having been convicted of any offence.

At the time of his detention he was working in a dry cleaning service to support his wife and five children.

BANNED BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND OBJECTS

Kwanele — play (Nyanga Theatre Group, directed by Warren Nebe); *Passing the Message*; *Bullies and Hot Chili* (all films); Boobie Bell (Poynter Products Inc); *The Leather Mistress Mystery — Adventure One* (not stated); International Loving Fashions (not stated); Stud's Wardrobe (Lady of Paris, Birmingham); Love Aids — the new range (Lady of Paris, Birmingham); *Wads — True Homosexual Experiences from STH Writers, Vol 6* (Boyd Mcdonald —ed).

Unbanned: *Lenin Vol 2 — All Power to the Soviet* (Tony Cliff).

Information Bureau Issues 26 Apr Unrest Report

MB270931 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0930 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 27, SAPA — Here follows the unrest report for the period 0001 to midnight last night issued by Bureau for Information in Pretoria:

Two coloured men and two coloured youths were arrested in Kliptown (Soweto) yesterday after being found to be in possession of petrol bombs.

Two delivery vehicles were set alight by groups of black persons in two separate incidents in Soweto yesterday. Damage was minimal and no injuries or arrests were reported.

Other unrest related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings and petrol bomb attacks. No injuries or arrests were reported and damage was indicated as minimal.

27 Apr Unrest Report

MB281049 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1046 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 28, SAPA — Here follows the unrest report for the period 0001 to midnight yesterday issued by the Bureau for Information in Pretoria:

Unidentified persons set fire to two railway coaches at Dube and New Canada stations in Soweto respectively. Serious damage was caused. No injuries or arrests were reported.

At 14h10 yesterday a group of about 300 black, white and coloured students gathered on the campus of the University of Cape Town where they burnt some tyres. The police arrived to investigate the matter.

The students then stoned the police vehicles as well some private vehicles in the area.

The police warned the students to disperse but they refused and tearsmoke was used. The use of tearsmoke was however limited for fear of affecting passing motorists on the highway bordering the campus and the police consequently used sjamboks.

The students dispersed but regrouped a little later and again stoned police and private vehicles.

The police then used birdshot to finally disperse the group. Three white women and a white man as well as three coloured men were arrested. Three policemen sustained slight injuries.

Other unrest-related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings and petrolbomb attacks causing minimal damage. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

27 Apr Press Review

MB271040 [Editorial Report]

SUNDAY STAR: Qwelane Criticizes P.W. Botha Reform
On page 15 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 26 April Jon Qwelane writes an open letter to State President P.W. Botha in his "Just Jon" column saying: "Someone ought to warn you that you are rapidly sinking in the murky waters of the Rubicon. Unlike Caesar, you never did cross the river. If you insist you have, then I suggest you forgot to burn your bridges or destroy the boats. That would symbolise your break with the past and signal your determination to grapple with the future."

"Just look at a wee bit of what has happened during the Great Reform Years under your presidency: tens of thousands are in indefinite imprisonment without trial, and it is a heinous crime to call for their release; soldiers are now doing their 'national service' by facing fellow South Africans with guns in the townships, and two States of Emergency have been declared in less than as many years. Also, thousands of people have died in that time; the economy, despite a fickle upsurge in the gold price, is in tatters; repression is the order of your government; forced removals continue and relations between blacks and whites are at their worst since 1652."

Blacks Still Exhibit Spirit of Cooperation
David Allen of the "Black Eye" column on the same page remarks that "all things considered, South Africa is very lucky. The black man in this country has had inflicted on him legal, political, social and economic deprivation on a scale very seldom seen anywhere else in the world or at any other time in history. Despite this, he continues to exhibit a spirit of co-operation, a willingness to contribute, a concern for law and order, and a desire to negotiate the terms of his future — even though his efforts throughout most of this century have seldom been even acknowledged, let alone acted upon. It would be natural,

therefore, to expect him by now to be burning with all-consuming hatred. But a reading of his Press indicates differently. While the facts of his frustration are forcefully articulated, his opinion continues to be expressed in tones of a gentle detached cynicism frequently tinged with humour. On occasion it exhibits touches of optimism that there is still hope, and, from time to time, a convincing reasonableness and rare insight (so often found wanting on election platforms these days)."

Hard-Line Tactics Government Answer to Unrest

"As the whites-only election campaign grinds to its final stages, turmoil among blacks underlines once again that the real political focus lies outside Parliament," says the page 16 editorial. "Bomb blasts, strike action, fatal shootings in the streets of Johannesburg and Germiston; these plus a massive stayaway over the rents issue in Soweto this week were ominous reminders of the unresolved issues — and of the hard-line tactics which seem to be the State's only answer." "It would be comforting to believe that all this has nothing to do with the election. But we fear it has. Kragdadige [forceful] action against unrest may catch votes among fearful whites. It may help the smearing of the Opposition with being 'soft' on law and order. On May 6, however, voters ought to remember what is really at stake. It is not a transitory palliative to fear, but a political solution that will allow all South Africans to feel secure in the long term."

NP Employing 'Scare' Politics

On the same page, political correspondent David Breier says the NP campaign "began on a high level with an intense nation-wide debate over visions of the future and the pace of reform. But at the hustings it has degenerated into old-fashioned scare politics." "It appears that deliberate smears by Nat [NP] canvassers play a role in identifying the PFP with the ANC in the minds of the voters." Professor David Welsh, professor of southern African studies at the University of Cape Town, said the NP "had conducted quite a skilful propaganda campaign 'of the most meretricious kind' on the security issue. 'It really seems to be a rigged election. It is difficult for the other parties to compete against this kind of propaganda,' he said."

Economy Displays Socialist Characteristics

Harry Schwarz notes in the "Talking Cents" column on page 2 of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* that South Africa "even today when its Government claims to be capitalist oriented, displays many of the characteristics of socialism." Schwarz says "South Africa is a mixed economy and will and should remain one." The country "faces a major problem in its exploding population and its inability under existing economic conditions to create the jobs needed. Unless we take measures to deal with this problem, it will not matter how good the constitutional proposals are which someone may produce."

SUNDAY TIMES Advocates Alliance Politics

A front page comment by Tertius Myburgh in Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 26 April says "the NP has given us no viable vision of a new future, no hint that anyone holding high office in Pretoria has any serious idea of how to halt the country's slow, degenerative slide into calamity. With 10 days to polling day, all we have is the NP's short-term promise that it is better than anyone else at bashing the ANC." However, "not everyone is given to a despairing vision." "Unlike our rulers," countless white South Africans "believe that a new society cannot be achieved by complacent stand-patters." "Hence we have seen the intellectual brain drain from the NP and the emergence of a loose alliance of moderates at what may be described as the 'extreme centre' of white politics." "Our future — if we are to have any at all — lies in alliance politics; alliances across language and colour lines." "On Wednesday next week, whites can make sure that as many modern men and women as possible are sent to the one place where peaceful change can still be initiated, Parliament."

SATS Partly To Blame for Violence

A page 30 editorial says the "burst of violence which this week claimed the lives of seven people and injured an uncertain number of others is a sharp reminder of how fragile is the recent 'peace' which has been bought by the Government at an enormous cost in civil liberties." "Part of the blame for the crisis lies with a SATS [South African Transport Services] management which acted with a ponderous refusal to absorb the most basic industrial relations lessons learnt by the private sector over the last decade." "A two-fold danger now exists. One, the Government will turn its back on the advances of the Wiehahn era — one of Pretoria's rare successes — and take the country into a new dark age of industrial relations in which unsophisticated policemen become arbiters of dispute. Two, established unions with a shop-floor tradition will in frustration be prepared to surrender hard-won gains for momentary political advantage."

Press Censorship Increases

"Just how severe our state of censorship has become was chillingly illustrated this week when police raided a building in Johannesburg in the aftermath of the bloody clash with railway strikers," notes a second editorial on the same page. "The following paragraph appeared in a newspaper's front page report of the Cosatu House siege: '*Business Day's* reporter and photographer at the scene were held for some time and released. They were not permitted to report what they saw.' In other words, YOU, the public, were not permitted to be told about events as witnessed by independent sources. This arbitrary clamp on the flow of information strikes at the very cornerstone of the democracy which the Nationalist Government claims to be defending. And, tragically, by inhibiting the watchdog role played by the Press, the risk of excess — on both sides — is greatly increased. The freedom of the Press to report what it sees is not some arcane right reserved for newspapers. It is the right of all South Africans to know what is happening in their own country."

Call To Forget Past Dogmas

Harald Pakendorf, consultant to independent candidate for Randburg Wynand Malan, writes an open letter to the general manager of SATS, Dr Bart Grove, in the "Another Voice" column on the same page. Pakendorf says one should be concerned that "such deeply divided feelings and reactions can exist in one country. It must be a certain pointer to future problems getting worse, that the gap between those who have the vote and those who don't is widening." "As we go into the final lap of the coming election, perhaps we should try to look beyond the dogma and prejudice we all grew up with and consider whether the future we see is one of continued confrontation or one which can only be peaceful if we all reach across the divide — and try to look at each other as human beings. And not as people who dominate, or should be dominated, as oppressors or revolutionaries."

SUNDAY TIMES: Spoil Votes To Show NP Dissatisfaction

Editor of *Frontline* magazine Denis Beckett says on page 30 of *Sunday Times* that "having earlier shown the potential to be the nation's Great Breakthrough, the coming election is rapidly becoming its Great Lost Opportunity." Beckett believes one can expect a "shattering Nat [NP] victory" at the 6 May election. "South Africa will continue to slide into the jaws of chaos, with the 'group' principle remaining sacrosanct to its Government and rendering peace and stability impossible."

However, Beckett points out that the independents "clearly have many more sympathisers in the 163 constituencies where they are not standing than in the three where they are. If they encourage those supporters to suspend their distaste for a Prog [PFP] or NRP [New Republic Party] candidate for the sake of striking a blow against the central Nat fallacy they do much to bring the cause of departing from the 'group' obsession to the front of the political stage." "If a spoilt paper movement were given recognition and purpose, it could have impact among fed-up Nats who want to express a desire for 'something better.' Thus, by a relatively simple, almost mechanistic method, the PFP, NRP and Independents could turn May 6 from the executioner of hope into the midwife of progress."

Four Essentials For Change

"Lack of stability and security are the present hallmarks of South Africa, but there remains one overriding common factor — the majority of South Africans are convinced of the need for change," writes business consultant and previously project leader of Project Free Enterprise Christo Nel. Nel believes there are four essentials to constructive change. "First, there needs to be a sufficiently high degree of focused discomfort in the current situation, together with pressure for change." "This enables different groups to exploit the dissatisfaction for their own vested interests — thereby further accelerating the process of polarisation in our society." Secondly, "a need to explore alternative routes and processes through which common interest can be identified, and upon which a common vision can be built." Thirdly, "a combination of diffuse discomfort and lack of shared vision necessitates a massive re-education and communication exercise for propagating and initiating constructive change." "The final pre-requisite for change is the need to initiate open-ended negotiations without any pre-determined agendas or unilateral divisions."

Government Should Remove 'Own Affairs' Precondition

"A mandate for power-sharing in this election means 'yes' to bring blacks into Central Government, but also 'yes' to doing so on the basis of 'own affairs,'" says the director of the South African Institute of Race Relations, John Kane-Berman. "Any mandate that the Government does obtain will be a mandate to lead the country up another political dead end. Firstly, there is no evidence that black leaders with any real political clout will enter negotiations in which the 'own affairs' structure is non-negotiable. Secondly, it is insanely wasteful." "Far from being self-determination for everyone, as the Government claims, the 'own affairs' structure in practice means self-determination for one group and imperialism for everyone else." "If the Government were to remove its 'own affairs' precondition and declare its willingness at least to discuss dealing with group association on a voluntary rather than a prescriptive basis, it would, I believe, be entitled to expect a similarly conciliatory attitude from blacks." "At the moment, wedded to 'own affairs', it has no case at all."

TRANSVALER on PFP, ECC

A page 16 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 23 April says "the PFP admits that the End Conscription Campaign [ECC] must have used its mailing list, but the PFP tries to make former PFP member Horace van Rensburg look like a political liar when he claims that the PFP allowed the ECC to use the mailing list. The PFP also says that an organization like the ECC should not be punishable in its campaign against serving in the security force." However, *Die Transvaler* says "negativism against a country's army is unforgivable. Is a lukewarm attitude by a political party acceptable by the voters? What about times when revolutionary forces come with their violent onslaughts? If the PFP is not lukewarm, then it must make a more clear stand on this issue."

BURGER Criticizes PFP, NRP Leadership

A page 14 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 23 April says the "leaders of the PFP and the New Republic Party [NRP] are making their parties appear impotent while at the same time trying to create the impression that they are acting in the interests of the country." "The opposition leaders of 1987 are displaying an inability to proceed on their own strength. Therefore they hope that after the 6 May election enough independents and other undecided politicians will get together to form an 'alliance or a coalition or something like it'. Whatever happens to their own parties and principles is of less interest. What must their supporters think of such leaders who are so weak in the knees?"

REPUBLIKEIN on National Holidays Bill

A page 4 editorial in Windhoek *Die Republikein* in Afrikaans on 23 April remarks that "an organization from South Africa has pressured the SWA/Namibian administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, into witholding his signature from a new public holidays bill." The legislation proposes to delete the Day of the Vow on December 16 and other traditional South African public holidays from the Namibian calendar. Mr Pienaar says he has received "representations" not to enact the bill. "If that is how it [administration] should work, then the cabinet should switch to governing the country on the basis of representations," says *Die Republikein.*

ILANGA: Black Violence Must Cease

"Among the sad announcements made by Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of Kwazulu, concerning violence during the Easter holidays, there is one that refers to intratribal fighting in the Khanyile ward at Nkandla," notes Durban *Ilanga* in Zulu 23-25 April in a page 14 editorial. "Black on black violence has become commonplace; and various leaders, including the KwaZulu chief minister, have called for an end to this irrational behavior. *Ilanga*, too, on many different occasions has urged the people to cease and desist from this abominable practice to no avail." "Dear Zulu people, black on black violence reduces our credibility in public forums with other racial groups. Our leaders, who daily are pleading for the African's full civil rights, are placed in a very embarrassing situation. Just imagine what Prince Buthelezi's reaction would be if the authorities observed: 'Now chief Buthelezi, you say your people are ready for full unfettered citizenship, yet they are still killing themselves like animals.'" "Let us do away with fighting, dear Zulu people. Let us engage in activities that will help augment our public stature and give more inspiration to our leaders. *Ilanga* mourns together with all those who are bereaved."

28 Apr Press Review

MB280700 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on Zambia Raid

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 27 April comments on the SADF raid into Zambia, saying the "Black countries" conveniently "overlook the fact they had ample warning to stop ANC terrorists using their territories as infiltration routes on their way to South Africa to disrupt the election." "South Africa cannot allow the ANC to muster in neighboring countries, or to launch attacks from across the border. When South Africa raids ANC targets or sends reconnaissance missions, it does so reluctantly and with full knowledge of the adverse reaction overseas." "Those who try to make political capital out of actions taken in the interests of the country deserve to be roundly condemned. For it is they who are exploiting a serious situation for political purpose."

STAR on Zambia Raid

"With lip-smacking ferocity, politicians like Mr Pik Botha have been forecasting some display of military might in the run-up to the election," notes a page 16 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 27 April. "No wonder it is impossible to divorce the weekend commando venture into Zambia from the political posturing of those who have been seeking electoral advantage by trying to frighten voters into supporting the National Party, which supposes itself to be 'tough' about such things." The government has "invited the hostility and anger not of the communist world (which surely is delighted at the propaganda weapon) but of the reasonable, democratic countries which ought to be our allies. Once again it has obliged the Defence Force to convey a 'mad dog' image to neighbours and the international community." "For all the harm it has done, the shooting party will be exploited to benefit one little group of South Africans — Nationalist election candidates. What a happy coincidence for them that the Defence Force felt compelled to act only days before election day."

BUSINESS DAY Critical of SADF Zambia Raid

Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 27 April says in a page 6 editorial that the South African raid into Zambia "fulfills public expectations of a pre-election military 'show' to underscore the NP's election propaganda." *Business Day* believes that "the need to carry out such reconnaissance raids implies a breakdown of clandestine intelligence gathering, which may in turn be a consequence of the deterioration in our political relationships with the Western powers." "The systematic manipulation and suppression of news, combined with the militaristic huffing and puffing, the provocation of trade unions, the highly visible police crackdown, all feed the suspicion that government is throwing every available resource of the State into the election campaign. A wise officers' corps that valued its relationship with all political factions of the electorate would have kept its head down until May 7."

IPLC Damages Interests of Country

A second editorial on the same page notes that the "antics of the hilariously misnamed Bureau for Information and its Interdepartmental Press Liaison Committee (IPLC) have passed being a joke. They damage the interests of the country. Late last week this newspaper submitted directly to the police for their comment a report on a British television programme that accused the SA Police of systematic torture. A courteous police officer took the opportunity to condemn torture and to invite the victims to lay charges. A sister newspaper submitted the report not to the police for comment but for clearance to the IPLC, which pretends that it steers such reports to the appropriate authorities. Permission to publish was denied. Judge for yourself the greater harm."

NP Foreign Relations 'Mishandled'

"The only reasonable explanation why the ANC is displacing this country's recognised authorities in the esteem of foreigners is that our foreign relations have been appallingly mishandled," says Ken Owen on the same page. "Nationalists tend to blame the Press, local or foreign, for this monumental failure but that excuse no longer holds water. No newspaperman, no television celebrity, has ever had a vast a platform as was given to President P. W. Botha for his finger-wagging Rubicon speech, and he did more harm in half an hour than the entire Press had done in a decade." "The Nationalists fail for the same reason that they cannot accept either criticism or advice: they are too insecure within themselves to compromise, and therefore they cannot politicise conflict or bring it into the arena of negotiations."

CAPE TIMES on P.W. Botha Reform

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 24 April remarks that State President Botha "preaches reform while cracking down more ruthlessly than ever. He pays lip service to a free press while enforcing press curbs of a severity unknown and, indeed, unthinkable in the Western democracies whose interests he claims to uphold." "Mr Botha talks about his 'negotiations' with blacks. But it is evident that he does not know what the word means. Negotiation takes place between people who are free and equal. There can be no negotiation as long as important and representative organizations such as the African National Congress are excluded from legitimate politics. This then, is the prospect Mr Botha offers — endemic violence and economic stagnation in a twilight world of racial tyranny."

SOWETAN on Zambia Raid

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 27 April notes that the "attack on Zambia did not even have the excuse of authenticity. It did not even use the usual plant of so-called African National Congress captured arms or documents, found by some hawk-eyed South African Defence Force commando." "There is a major problem with the view that the raid will reinforce the Government's 'ANC theme' in the elections. While that might be true, the elections are not the end of the problem for South Africa. These elections, which are considered by blacks as an irrelevance, are simply an interlude in a problem that will gather even fiercer momentum after the elections. So while the regime and even other political parties in the elections are expending all their energies for the coming elections, they might do well to look at the post election scene. It does not even matter who wins. The problems will still be there, and with attacks on neighbouring states the blacks, who are not involved in this side show, will be even more bitter. That means that whichever party wins the elections will be faced with mounting problems. And this is not even half-way through the year."

TRANSVALER: Blacks Expect NP Election Victory

A page 12 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 24 April says the NP will "go ahead with the National Council and will give black leaders the opportunity to come forward." This policy is "not deviating from that intended by P. W. Botha during the past months and years." "Those who are suggesting anything other than that put forward by the NP are acting mischievously. Blacks are waiting for the 6 May election and what is to follow thereafter. They expect a convincing NP victory at the polls so that an acceptable dispensation can be negotiated."

BURGER on NP Reform

"The left wing opposition parties want to destroy the government because it is supposedly not serious about reform," says a page 14 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 24 April. "But what do they have to offer?" "It should be more important for South Africans to heed the State President's call not to stand divided. Joining hands will create a stronger mandate for further reform."

BEELD on New 'Vision' of Independents

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 27 April says "one is beginning to get annoyed at the so-called vision of the independent candidates." *Beeld* points out that "negotiation politics is not a new vision. It is old NP policy. The scrapping of apartheid is also not new. The NP has been trying to do it for a long time but it does so in an ordered manner while trying to maintain stability." "Not everyone is so stupid that they do not realize that the new vision is a sort of intellectual arrogance rather than a new concept."

RAPPORT on IDASA

A page 32 editorial in Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 26 April says the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA) represents "a tendency to seek alternatives outside the present party and parliamentary structures. Those alternatives can only be looked at with mixed feelings since it appears that the democracy sought also has a place for the 'so-called radical interest groups' such as the UDF and the ANC." The NP is criticized because it wants to set conditions for negotiations and the IDASA wants to get rid of those conditions. But, "what happens when those conditions have been abolished and the 'so-called' radical groups decide not to stop making demands? What sort of peace and democracy awaits South Africa then?"

IDASA Critical of Independents

Ian Liebenberg of IDASA writes on page 33 of *Rapport* on the role of the independent candidates in South African politics, saying: "It appears that the independents think about negotiations along the lines of another KwaNatal Indaba and ultimately another alliance between white moderates and black moderates." But, "one looks at the manifesto and speeches of the independents to see there are many qualifications concerning the acceptance of groups such as the ANC and the UDF." Liebenberg also expresses concern about the independent idea that "law and order and reform are bedfellows." Liebenberg believes that the independents have the "potential to wrest the power monopoly from the NP but they run the risk of being absorbed into maintaining the present political system because of the demands of 'white' politics." "To begin to walk toward the goal of a nonracial democracy with universal voting rights can demand a high price. That first step would demand a coalition with groups presently in 'white' politics being classified as 'enemies'."

NAMIBIAN: Further Curbs to Freedom of Movement

"The early closure of the Oshivello Gate by the military on the eve of the Easter weekend, appears to be in blatant contravention of the law governing the curfew in northern Namibia," says the page 9 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 24 April. "Freedom of movement is already severly restricted in Namibia by both the curfew regulations, as well as the permit system in several areas of the country. Surely people should not be further hindered by a 'possible security risk over the Easter weekend.' While the importance of the safety of civilians cannot be overestimated, it must be stated that if the army was aware of a definite guerrilla presence in the area then they could have informed people accordingly."

Lister Criticizes Plan for Constitution Before Election

Gwen Lister writes in her "Political Perspective" column on page 8 that Fanuel Kozonguizi, minister of justice in the interim government, roundly rebukes the Namibia Peace Plan (NPP) 435 for "adhering to the 435 provisions that a constitution be written by an elected constituent assembly." "He further states that NPP-435 and others cannot rely on the possibility that SWAPO would 'abide by abstract principles limiting its power.' He fails to state that the interim government which has ostensibly adopted a Bill of Rights as its 'plan of action' in the absence of a common political platform between the six governing parties, has consistently failed to abide by the same Bill of Rights. Who's fooling whom? His argument in favour of a constitution before elections, is whether he admits it or not, an attempt to guarantee the rights of paranoic parties within the interim government, who fear a SWAPO government."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Urges Security Forces To Remain Vigilant

MB271904 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1835 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] President Kaunda today asked the defense and security forces to continue taking threats from racist South Africa as seriously as ever and to remain extra vigilant. Comrade Kaunda said the regime was determined to exploit every opportunity to destabilize the country because of what Zambia stood for. The president said these words at Independence Stadium in Lusaka when he took a salute at a march and fly pass jointly organized by the Zambia Army and the Air Forces, Zambia National Service, prisons, and police to mark his 63d birthday tomorrow.

In another development, the president has implored the Western countries to stop working for detente while South Africa ruthlessly destroyed the very basic economic infrastructure that it helped to set up in the southern African region. Comrade Kaunda said it was a startling paradox that the West provides assistance toward economic independence to the region while at the same time pursued policies that encouraged South Africa to frustrate those very efforts.

In a goodwill message to the seminar on the question of Namibian independence currently being held in the Federal Republic of Germany, Comrade Kaunda called on the Western countries to support sanctions as eagerly as they have done in other cases, saying this is the only peaceful way peace and stability can be brought to the region.

ZIMBABWE

Authorities Release 8 Detained South Africans

MB271112 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1110 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 27, SAPA — The eight South African men detained earlier this month by Zimbabwe authorities are back with their families in the Transvaal after they were released at the weekend.

Their legal representative, Mr Ernst Penzhorn, said today at a press conference at Jan Smuts Airport upon his return from Harare, where he negotiated their release, that they had been detained under Zimbabwe's emergency regulations on suspicion of spying for South Africa.

The men, Mr Hendrik Bonthuys, Mr Piet Gouws, Mr Willie Kruger, Mr Ferdie Janse van Rensburg, Dr Michael Swart, Mr Bertus Erasmus, Mr Quinton Crafford, and Mr Pierre Roscher, were released on Friday night and told to be out of Zimbabwe by 10h00 on Saturday.

They had returned to South Africa via Plumtree, and then through Botswana, the route they took when they entered Zimbabwe on April 9 for a canoeing trip down the Zambezi River.

They were detained at the Kariba Hotel on April 13, after they took pictures of the Kariba dam wall, which has been prohibited in terms of Zimbabwe's emergency regulations since January.

Mr Penzhorn said the men were held at four different jails in Zimbabwe, where they were interrogated but well treated. Mr Penzhorn said all the men were professionals and that none were members of the South African security forces.

The Pretoria lawyer told newsmen at the airport he had been asked to represent the men by their families and had acted in his private capacity during negotiations, although he had liaised closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Zimbabwe authorities had allowed the eight to have legal representation, and he had travelled to Harare last Thursday, where he was courteously received.

Mr Penzhorn said he had been told South African tourists were not unwelcome in Zimbabwe, but he advised them to make sure they did not allow themselves to be found in suspicious circumstances. Mr Penzhorn also secured the release in February this year of four South Africans held in Zambia for nine months.